Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-129
Wednesday
3 July 1996

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-129 *3 July 1996*

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Russia: Yeltsin Votes in Moscow Suburb

LD0307064396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0637 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Itar-Tass) — Russian cabinet head Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters on Wednesday that President Boris Yeltsin voted today in the village of Barvikha, a suburb of Moscow.

Russia: Yeltsin Urges Citizens To Vote

LD0307093596 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin and his wife voted today in their residence of Barvikha outside Moscow. Yesterday he obtained a certificate enabling him to vote according to his place of residence. The president told journalists they have no grounds for complaint against him.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] In the first place, I have fulfilled my annual plan for meeting the press by 120 percent. And for the last time, before voting, I would like to say to all Russians, to all the people of Russia: Come and vote! Don't forget your duty! [end recording] [Yeltsin appears tired, speaks in a hoarse voice]

Russia: Yeltsin Following Election From Countryside Residence

LD0307103496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans to work on documents at his countryside residence of Barvikha, the Moscow region, today, presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told Interfax.

He will "watch the elections progress with his family." The spokesman said the president "is being informed on voting in the regions."

Yeltsin will also go for a walk with his grandchildren today.

Russia: Filatov: Doctors Insisted Yeltsin Vote at Barvikha

LD0307105196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1028 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Boris Yeltsin feels fine, but doctors have not recommended that he go to Moscow and have insisted that he should vote at Barvikha in the Moscow countryside, Sergey Filatov, head of the All-Russia Public Movement in Yeltsin's Support, declared at a news conference today.

As turnout in the second round of presidential elections has been persistently lower than expected by 5-6 percent, the Movement intends to take steps to persuade voters to go to the polls, with noted Russian intellectuals and politicians addressing voters on TV and radio, Filatov said.

Russia: Lebed Does Not Doubt Yeltsin's Victory in Elections

LD0307100196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0943 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Secretary of the Russian Security Council, presidential national security aide Aleksandr Lebed does not doubt victory of Boris Yeltsin in the second round of presidential elections.

"The carrier of the progressive idea will win," Lebed told correspondents after voting at a Moscow polling station.

Lebed said he met Boris Yeltsin Monday. "He looked quite respectable, but the loss of his voice still shows," said the official.

Commenting on Yeltsin's voting in Barvikha instead of Moscow, Lebed said "the president will be absolutely healthy tomorrow and sign plenty of decrees; he is a sportsman by nature."

The president is due to sign a national security concept today, said Lebed.

He supports a coalition government because it would not "allow someone to remain in opposition and indulge in criticism."

Lebed reaffirmed his intention to visit Chechnya, but did not say when.

The Security Council head reaffirmed his support to head of the Russian Armed Forces' General Staff Academy Igor Rodionov, "an elite general," as a candidate to the post of defense minister.

Asked about formation of a new cabinet, Lebed said they "should first dismiss the current cabinet in accordance with the constitution, and then discuss posts."

Lebed stressed that he does not fear "for his future."

He plans to return money illegally imported from Russia, estimated at $400 billion.

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Russia: Lebed Reports Yeltsin in Good Health, 'Voice Thickened'

LD0307094996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By Andrey Surzhansky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 3 (Itar-Tass) — "There is no other way for Russia but to be proud, rich and happy," Aleksandr Lebed, National Security Assistant to the President and Secretary of the Security Council, told journalists today after voting at his polling station in the Krylatskoye District.

Commenting on reports about Yeltsin's health, that appeared recently in some mass media organs, Lebed said that "the President is in a good shape, only his voice thickened a little."

He said as well that on Thursday the President was going to sign "a lot of decrees," including a decree on the national security programme, which Lebed had submitted for his consideration before.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Hopes Supporters Will Back Yeltsin

LD0307100996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0921 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Yabloko party leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has voiced hope that "the overwhelming part" of his electorate in the first round of presidential elections "will vote for Boris Yeltsin today." He told this to Interfax and NTV reporters after voting at a polling station in Moscow.

However, he refused to say who he had voted for himself. "In the situation we are in, each makes his own decision," he said, adding that "Each of the candidates is well known, and all of us know how we lived in the past and how we have lived in the last five years."

According to Yavlinskiy, in his interview with Interfax on June 30 he recalled his "quite constructive" replies to the questions put to him at the Yabloko convention ten days ago.

"We are ready for a dialogue with President Yeltsin," he declared.

"If the president intends to change the course on a number of fundamental issues, we could take part in this," Yavlinskiy said.

However, when asked if Yabloko might delegate some of its members to the government, he answered: "Discussing such questions before the end of the presidential ballot would be improper."

Suggesting that "these issues should be examined after the ballot," Yavlinskiy quoted Yeltsin as saying in an interview with Interfax that Yabloko could take part in forming the Cabinet, and such participation would be useful.

Yavlinskiy then called for uniting the democrats after the presidential elections. "Yabloko has always been open to any unifying trends of principle," he said.

The Yabloko leader voiced readiness "to take part" in voting on a motion to replace Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev, representing Russian Communist Party in the parliament's lower house. However, "the question is not whom to dismiss but whom to elect," Yavlinskiy added.

Asked about the possibility of replacing Seleznev with Ivan Rybkin, who was in charge of the previous Duma, Yavlinskiy replied that although "it is a fresh idea, we once received Seleznev thanks to it."

Russia: 'Contradictory' Foreign Reports on Yeltsin's Health Aired

LD0307093296 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0845 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Contradictory reports about Boris Yeltsin's state of health are surprising foreign journalists accredited to Russia.

[Polish journalist Viktor Batyr] Gossip and speculation about Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's state of health is a result of an information blockade. This reminds one of the good old policy of the communist authorities. At that time, the health of the general secretary was a state secret. The return to that policy is a return to the past in one way or another. In this case everyone knows the heart problems of Boris Nikolayevich very well. When his entourage are hiding something, one suspects the worst. Special for Radio Ekho Moskvy, Viktor Batyr, Polish radio correspondent.

[Presenter] As CNN sources report, Boris Nikoalyevich is suffering from stenocardia. When Viktor Chernomyrdin was asked to comment on these reports, he said he knew nothing. The CNN sources also claim that Yeltsin improved over the weekend. But now he has deteriorated again. Chernomyrdin also said he intends to meet President Yeltsin. According to the premier, the head of state's state of health is quite normal. Presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov said today that in his view, not everything is all right with Boris Yeltsin, because the latter has not appeared in public for the last five days. Zyuganov said again that he will insist on the need for all leaders to go through a medical examination.

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Russia: Italian Radio Reports Yeltsin Suffers Heart Condition

LD0307085796 Rome RAI Radio Uno Network in Italian 0800 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Polling stations are open throughout Russia in second round voting in the presidential elections. As you heard in our last bulletin, President Boris Yeltsin has voted in his dacha 20km from the capital. But we are able to go over to our Moscow correspondent, Mark Innaro, who has come into the possession of a scoop.

[Innaro] Boris Yeltsin is suffering from coronary stenosis, a possible prelude to an ischemic attack. The cause: an angina attack which he is said to have suffered around 10 days ago. This is a far cry from the laryngitis which up till now his press office has repeatedly cited. We learned the dramatic news a short time ago from members of the presidential administration who did not want to be quoted, but whose information at this time seems completely reliable, after hundreds of journalists waited in vain for over two hours for Boris Yeltsin to arrive at his usual polling station, near his home on the outskirts.

Doctors who are keeping him under very close observation are said to have advised against this at the last moment, judging that it would have been too dangerous for his health to expose the president to the swarm of photographers and cameramen. The leader of the Kremlin therefore appears to have voted directly in his country home, where, according to the information we have, very few people are allowed to see him. The second and decisive round of voting in the presidential elections is taking place in a dramatic atmosphere full of uncertainty.

The bad news for Boris Yeltsin comes also from the far east, where, owing to the different time zone, polling stations are about to close. The turnout there is markedly lower than in the first round of voting, and this, according to the opinion polls, should benefit the Communist candidate, Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Russia: Yeltsin Group Says Communists Leading Russia to Civil War

LD0307124296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Russian Communists are preparing the country for civil war, according to a press release issued by the national movement in President Yeltsin's support, ODOP [All-Russia Public Movement in Yeltsin's Support], on Wednesday.

ODOP says that a possible victory or defeat by the Communists could lead to a serious political destabilization and threat of civil war.

Indicatively, it says, the Communists peddle out an argument alleging the authorities were planning to rig the vote and the electorate was being indoctrinated with the idea that the election would be unfair and in Yeltsin's favor.

ODOP claims that there is growing discontent in the ranks of the Communist-led opposition over democratic procedures and calls can be heard to shift to more resolute actions. Work is under way on a scenario aimed to discredit the voting results if the Communists are defeated.

The campaign is intended to "crown" Zyuganov as a genuine winner in contrast with the candidate announced by the Central Electoral Commission, "spark off general discontent over unfair elections," provoke the authorities to take strong retaliatory moves, unsettle the political situation and try to take over power in an unlawful way, ODOP says.

It says that a massive monitoring of the poll within the framework of the existing law is the only way out of the situation.

Russia: Zyuganov Has 'Good Premonitions' About Election Outcome

LD0307092896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0732 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Jul (Itar-Tass) — Russian Federation presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov has "good premonitions" about the outcome of today's elections. This was what he told journalists who gathered at the polling station in Miusskaya Square, where the candidate was casting his vote.

"Everything is all right, election in the Far East is proceeding well," he went on. According to the candidate, in Amur Region, where he "enjoyed active support" in the first round, the same proportion of voters had turned up by 1400 local time as at the last election.

Gennadiy Zyuganov expressed hope that the second round would proceed without violations and rigging. "We have our observers at every polling station, and they will monitor vote counting," he stressed.

The presidential candidate from the People's Patriotic Bloc said that in the event of his victory he would be "against starting life anew from Monday [as received]."

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Russia: Duma Speaker Says Zyuganov Poised To Win Runoff

LD0307093496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0839 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev said Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov has "a very good" chance of winning the runoff election on July 3.

"Since the turnout in the second round will be obviously lower than in the first round, Zyuganov has a chance to win," Seleznev told journalists after he had cast his ballot at one of the Moscow polling stations.

If Zyuganov wins the election, power transfer from the incumbent president to his successor will be carried out "in a civilized way even though Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) did not sign the law 'On the Procedure for Transferring State Power by the President of the Russian Federation' passed by the State Duma and approved by the Federation Council."

He stressed that the Duma plans to overrule the president's veto at its plenary session on Friday and ruled out any use of force in the event of Zyuganov's defeat.

"I think there will be no undesirable excesses in that case, but Yeltsin will have to take into account the fact that Zyuganov has as many supporters as he himself has and, therefore, in order to maintain the balance of forces and do not expose society to unnecessary social tensions, I believe that Yeltsin should form a government based on the principle proposed by Zyuganov. And he, Yeltsin, will also have to reckon with the opposition's opinion," Seleznev said.

He noted that if Zyuganov loses, he "should remain the leader of the opposition in order to be freer in his actions because this is not the last presidential election."

Russia: Zyuganov Pledges To Accept Results of 'Honest' Elections

LD0307120096 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Jul 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning the leader of the communists accompanied by numerous guards voted at the Pioneers Center not far from the block of luxury apartments where he lives in central Moscow. Gennadiy Zyuganov admitted that he has voted for a real Russia. A discussion of Boris Yeltsin's health has become a tradition at all meetings between Zyuganov and journalists.

[Begin recording] [Zyuganov] Let's wait and see. If he doesn't come to the polling station then it is serious. [end recording]

Zyuganov hopes to assure himself that the poll has been conducted honestly through parallel counting of votes. Observers from the Communist Party are relying on receiving a copy of all protocols issued. Zyuganov believes that the red belt will not change color.

[Begin recording] [Zyuganov] In those regions which actively supported us, about the same number of people had voted by 1400 as voted in the previous poll. This suits us just fine. As for the regions that supported Mr. Yeltsin, the turnout there is 5-6 percent lower. [end recording]

Zyuganov denied reports about a split in his bloc and complained yet again about the mass media.

[Begin recording] [Zyuganov] Name just one dissenter. The main dissenters are in television. [end recording]

The communist leader said that he would accept any results of honest elections and promised, in conclusion, to preserve the name of his party no matter what the turn of events. [Video shows Zyuganov dropping his ballot paper in box and then speaking to journalists outside polling station. Militia and bodyguards also seen.]

Russia: Zyuganov Comments on Coalition Options in Event of Victory

LD0307104096 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to journalists' questions, Gennadiy Zyuganov, who voted at the polling station on Miusskaya Street, said he hopes that there will be no violations during the elections and that he will carry out the will of the people.

The leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation said that he is fully satisfied with the information which he has about how the voting is proceeding in the regions. Gennadiy Zyuganov expressed confidence that in districts of the so-called red belt the voter turnout will be even higher than on 16 June.

In reply to persistent questions from journalists as to whether the candidate is confident of victory, Zyuganov replied diplomatically:

[Begin Zyuganov recording] Nobody will lose and nobody will win in the present conditions. Russia will lose if this course continues. But it cannot continue even if everyone wants it to very much. [end recording]

Speaking of a coalition government, Zyuganov said that he has held consultations with leading politicians and

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scholars. He promised that if he wins the elections, there will be room in his coalition government for all those who are able to work and who have proved that already.

Russia: Zyuganov Claims Yeltsin Pursuing Communist Policies

LD0307110896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Video shows cameramen and reporters, Zyuganov arriving at polling station and voting, then speaking to reporters]

[Correspondent P. Korovyakovskiy] The wisest journalist arrived at the No.58-59 polling station at exactly 0400 in order to get the best position. The silliest of them asked Gennadiy Zyuganov, who arrived at about 1000, whom he intends to vote for. The most satisfied seemed to be Gennadiy Andreyevich who complained about neglect from the press but who today was at the center of the reporters' attention. The most boring was the procedure of voting lit by camera flashes. The most incomprehensible was why Gennadiy Zyuganov was striving to become president if almost everything which he intends for the country and for the people was, as he said, is already being implemented.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] Take a look at our program which was published last August, point by point, and look at what Mr. Yeltsin has done in the past two months during the election campaign. He has been implementing 90 percent of our program. [end recording]

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Votes Against Yeltsin, Zyuganov

LD0307101296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0937 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy voted against both candidates in the second round of presidential elections on Wednesday.

Zhirinovskiy showed journalists his ballot marked "Against All" before he cast it at one of the Moscow polling stations.

He declined to make any comment.

Russia: Gorbachev Votes Against Yeltsin, Zyuganov

LD0307114096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Ex-Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev voted against both candidates in the Russian runoff election on Wednesday.

"We are choosing without having any choice today" since neither candidate has "either a base or personnel or conceptual resources," Gorbachev told journalists after voting at Moscow's polling station No. 2446.

He believes that the best solution would be "new elections," which would become possible if the majority of Russians voted against both candidates today.

Asked to comment on irregularities in the first round of election on June 16, Gorbachev said "I have heard such rumors."

He also said that his confidant in Chechnya, Artur Umanskiy, "has disappeared after he reported violations during vote counting," adding that he intends to file a complaint with the Prosecutor General's Office.

Asked about his plans to form an opposition party, Gorbachev noted that his task is to "help a serious political democratic opposition to the present regime emerge in Russia."

Russia: Violations of Election Laws Reported

LD0307102796 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0840 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports are coming in to Mayak about violations of the electoral legislation on the eve of the elections and during them.

In some areas there was direct campaigning on 2 July in support of Gennadiy Zyuganov. Thus, in Moscow, copies of the PRAVDA newspaper were found in letter boxes. In the Komi Republic, supporters of the Communist Party distributed leaflets. In Belgorod, pro-communist printed matter also appeared which was in violation of the legislation. The appropriate representations have been sent to the Central Electoral Commission and the electoral commissions of the subjects of the Federation about all of these incidents.

The worst example was the radio address in Chainskiy District of Tomsk Region by Vorovkin, a representative of the Communist Party, who made a direct appeal to support Zyuganov's candidacy in the election. Material on this incident has been handed to the prosecutor's office.

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According to observers of the Our Home is Russia youth movement, in Pskov Region, at No. 402 polling station in (Ryasino), the constituency electoral commission decided to allow electors to vote without their passports. An observer who tried to prevent the violation was removed from the polling station.

Another violation was recorded in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. At No. 155 polling station there voting began at 0600. Sixty-three people had voted by 0800. The fact of the violation was noted. The polling station was temporarily closed. Voting was later continued in accordance with the law. All the people who voted before 0800 are being identified, apologies are being made, and they are being invited to return to vote again in accordance with the law.

Russia: Communist Observer Ousted From Polling Station for Violations

LD0307102496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0923 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, July 3 (Interfax-Eurasia) — Communist observer Maria Novoselova was sent away from polling station No. 81 in Vladivostok's Leninskiy district (the Maritime territory in the Far East) for violating the law on presidential elections.

Chairwoman of the District Electoral Commission Galina Bogdanovich told Interfax-Eurasia that at 7:45 a.m. local time, Novoselova demanded that the polling station be opened ahead of time. Subsequently, she insisted that the commission members show her the documents of the citizens receiving ballot papers.

The violations were documented, said Bogdanovich. After the second violation Novoselova was removed from the polling station.

Russia: Polling Irregularity Reported in Vladivostok

LD0307113096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, July 3 (Itar-Tass) — Independent observers posted in polling station No 81 in Vladivostok have registered infringement of the Russian Presidential Election law. They said that the number of ballot papers issued exceeded the number of registered voters. The law allows this to be done within a limit of 0.05 per cent. But the statement signed by the observers says that in the polling station for 2198 voters 2400 ballot papers were received, which comes to 9.2 per cent.

In addition to this, the observers recorded that voters' lists were signed neither by the chairman of the polling center's election commission nor by his secretary until the morning of July 3, although in compliance with the law, it is necessary to be done five days prior to election.

The Maritime territory headquarters for support to Gennadiy Zyuganov has approached the public prosecutor of Vladivostok's Frunze district with a request to investigate the fact of taking out about 200 thousand ballot papers at 15:00 hours local time today from the regional state press complex "Dalpress". The headquarters has emphasized that the information about taking out ballot papers was received from a "number of reliable sources", among whom are workers of the joint-stock company "Dalpress".

Russia: Violation of Election Procedure Filed in Birobidzhan

LD0307083196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0710 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BIROBIDZHAN, July 3 (Interfax-Eurasia) — A violation in the voting procedure was registered in Birobidzhan (the Jewish Autonomous Republic in Russia's Far East) on July 3. An Interfax-Eurasia correspondent reports with reference to a source in the Regional Electoral Commission that two ballot papers were given to one voter in a polling station (a man intended to vote for his wife).

This violation of the election law was noticed by observers who warned the members of the Regional Electoral Commission that they would be brought to account for such violations.

By 10:00 a.m. local time, more than 10 percent of the Birobidzhan population had cast their ballots, which is almost 2 percent more than on June 16, and two times more than during the parliamentary elections in December 1995.

The rural population is extremely active, the Regional Electoral Commission informed Interfax-Eurasia. In some villages more than 50 percent of the voters had cast their votes by 10:00 a.m. local time, and in the village of Russkaya Polyana (some 80 kilometers from Birobidzhan) — 70 percent.

In Yakutia (one of Russia's constituent republics in Siberia) 5.2 percent of the voters had cast their ballots by 10:00 a.m., July 3 (compared to 5.8 percent on June 16).

In the Maritime territory, the voter turnout stood at 7.98 percent by 11:00 a.m. local time, which roughly equals the turnout rate on June 16.

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In both Yakutia and the Maritime territory the voters are more active in the rural regions.

Russia: Case Against Electioneering for Zyuganov in Tomsk Filed

LD0307072796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0633 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Itar-Tass) — Open agitation in support of Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, a presidential candidate, was broadcast in the Tomsk Region on Tuesday, on the eve of the election day.

Itar-Tass learnt at the coordination committee of the All-Russian movement of public support for Boris Yeltsin that member of the Russian Communist Party Leonid Vorovkin, made such an address over local radio in the village of Ust-Bakchar, Chainsky district, Siberia, on July 2.

A case was instituted under Article 42 of the Administrative Code. The trial will be held on Wednesday.

Russia: 'Gross Violation' of Election Law Reported in Khabarovsk

LD0307072296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0626 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By Boris Savelyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KHABAROVSK July 3 (Itar-Tass) — Vladimir Prokopenko, member of local electoral commission No. 173 of Khabarovsk, has been removed from discharging his duties. He went to the flat of an elector, who could not come to the polling station by himself, without taking a ballot box with him, which is a gross violation of the law on elections. No observer was present at the voting, either.

Relatives of the elector regarded all that as a violation of the law and appealed to the regional electoral commission. The checking confirmed the fact of the violation of the law. The local electoral commission decided unanimously that Prokopenko should be removed from his post. Itar-Tass learned from the regional electoral commission, that Prokopenko had been recommended to the local commission by the local branch of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

Russia: Delivery of Pro-Zyuganov Leaflets Violate Election Law

LD0207153096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 2 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Raul Tukhvatulin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ufa, 2 Jul (ITAR-TASS) — Zyuganov supporters dropped leaflets resembling ballot papers through the mailboxes of Ufa residents today. Although the dissemination of campaign material has been prohibited by law since midnight, the leaflet showed where to place a tick on election day — in the box next to the communist candidate's name.

Nailya Altynova, secretary of the republican electoral commission, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the commission is aware of the incident but that the people distributing the leaflets have not been caught.

Russia: Filatov Says Turnout 5-6 Percent Down From First Round

LD0307100096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0842 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Jul (Itar-Tass) — So far, the turnout in the second round of the presidential election in the Russian Federation has been 5-6 percent down from 16 June. This was said today by Sergey Filatov, chairman of the board of the all-Russian movement of public support for Boris Yeltsin [ODOPP]. He opened the ODOPP press center in the ITAR-TASS building.

According to Sergey Filatov, the situation in the election in general is more or less calm and there have been no major violations of the law. There have, however, been some violations in Udmurtia, Tambov, and Amur Regions and in some other places.

Sergey Filatov said attempts were made in some places to raise bread prices on the eve of the election, and power supplies were cut. There have also been violations with regard to poster propaganda. "But that does mar the overall picture," he added.

The head of the ODOPP said Communist Party of the Russian Federation "observers are being monitored themselves." He believes that "the Communists will not have enough resources to carry out parallel vote counting." "It looks as if society will be spared any extra confrontational activity that could be used after the election," Sergey Filatov concluded.

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Russia: Turnout Relatively Low in Far East, European Russia

LD0307095996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Jul 96

[Unscheduled "Elections-96" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voter activity in the Far East is still somewhat down on the first round of the presidential elections. Figures for voting up to this hour are: 35 percent of the electorate has voted in the Taymyr autonomous region; turnout is higher in Chukotka at 45 percent, according to information from the Central Electoral Commission; in the Koryak autonomous region 35 percent of the electorate has voted.

In Sakhalin 36 per cent have voted; in the Jewish autonomous region 39 percent. Turnout has started to rise in Maritime Territory: according to the latest information, 46.3 percent of the electorate has already voted here.

It looks as if turnout in the European part of Russia has been depressed by the morning television serials. At least that is what people think at the electoral commissions in Belgorod, Kursk and Voronezh regions. According to figures for 1100 from Kursk region, 8.4 percent of the electorate had voted; 7.3 percent in Voronezh region and 8.6 percent in Belgorod region.

Russia: Low Turnout Reported in Kabardino-Balkaria

LD0307095096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0816 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NALCHIK, July 3 (Interfax) — Voting in Kabardino-Balkaria, a Russian constituent republic in the North Caucasus, has been slow so far as only 55,184 out of a 504,085 electorate (or 10.9 percent) had cast their ballots by 10:00 a.m.

In the first round on June 16, the turnout had been 11.33 percent.

Boris Chabdarov, the chairman of the republican electoral commission, explained the low turnout by the fact that people are watching a Brazilian soap opera.

However, in rural areas, the voting is going brisker. In the Tersk district, 21.3 percent had already voted, in the Zolsk district 17.4 percent and in the Cherkessk district 16.4 percent.

In the Kabardino-Balkar capital Nalchik, the turnout had been 5.3 percent by 10:00 a.m.

Russia: Turnout Higher in Siberia, Lower in Urals Than 16 Jun

LD0307094196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0821 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOMSK, July 3 (Interfax-Eurasia) — The turnout in the second round of presidential elections in Siberia has so far been higher than that on June 16, local election officials said.

As of noon local time, 30 percent of voters had cast their ballots in the Tomsk region, compared to 24 percent by 2:00 p.m. on June 16.

In the Kemerovo region, the turnout had been 5.76 percent by 10:00 a.m., a 0.5 percent increase from June 16.

In the Chita region, 35 percent had voted by 2:00 p.m. In the first round, the turnout was 40 percent.

In the Irkutsk region, the turnout by 2:00 p.m. had been 13.27 percent compared to 19.02 percent on June 16.

In Buryatia, 34.6 percent of people had cast their ballots by 2:00 p.m. (42.09 percent on June 16).

In the Krasnoyarsk region, the turnout had been 18.67 percent by noon, while on June 16 it was 25.46 percent.

In the Urals, the voting was also reported to be less brisk than in June.

In the Perm region, only about 5 percent of the electorate had voted by 10:00 a.m., which is 1.5 percent less than on June 16.

There are 1,600 polling stations in the region. No irregularities have been reported so far.

In the Chelyabinsk region, the turnout had been 6.9 percent by 11:00 a.m., while in the first round it had been 1.5 percent higher by 10:00 a.m.

In the Orenburg region, 6.73 percent of voters had come to the poll by 10:00 a.m.

Yuriy Andreyev, the chairman of the regional electoral commission, told Interfax-Eurasia that he expected people to come to the polling stations after a Brazilian soap opera ends.

He said no irregularities had been reported so far.

In the Sverdlovsk region — President Boris Yeltsin's home base — 11.2 percent had voted by 11:00 a.m. compared to 7.5 percent on June 16.

The voting is proceeding "without excesses," local election officials said.

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Russia: 'High Activeness' of Moscow Voters Applauded

LD0307091096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0747 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Some 2,726,000 voted in the second round of presidential elections by 10 a.m. Moscow time, chief analyst of the Federal Information Center Dmitry Oreshkin told a briefing at the center this morning.

"High activeness of the voters was a pleasant surprise for the Central Electoral Commission," he said. Pessimistic forecasts of experts did not come true, noted Oreshkin.

Some 38.5 percent of voters participated in the elections by 10 a.m. Moscow time in the Khabarovsk territory (it was 42 percent by the same time on June 16). The Khabarovsk territory is a traditionally pro-reformist area and the activeness of local voters has so far been high. Oreshkin thinks the Khabarovsk territory is the decisive factor in summing up the voting results in the region. The overall number of people who came to vote in the Russian Far East by 10 a.m. Moscow time was 28 percent, in Siberia — 7.1 percent, in the Urals and the Trans-Urals zone — 1.5 percent, in Moscow — 8 percent. This is a good index for the capital, said the analyst.

Russia: Far East Voter Turnout 'Smaller' Than on 16 Jun

LD0307071996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0655 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KHABAROVSK, July 3 (Interfax-Eurasia) — By midday, July 3, the voter turnout was smaller in the Far East than during the first round on June 16. The Electoral Commission of the Khabarovsk territory informed Interfax-Eurasia that 38.53 percent of the voters had cast their ballots by 2:00 p.m. July 3. On June 16, 41.76 percent of the voters had cast their votes by this time.

A serious violation of the election law was registered in a polling station in the Khabarovsk territory. Member of the local commission, Communist Vladimir Prokopenko, who had been instructed to visit the disabled and sick voters in their homes, did not bring them a ballot box and collected the ballot papers in a file.

Following an emergency session of the local electoral commission, Prokopenko was expelled from the commission. The case will be passed to the territorial prosecutor's office.

Russia: 'Fairly Low' Turnout Reported in Sakhalin, Kurils

LD0307034496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0233 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 3 July (Itar-Tass) — Governor Igor Farkhutdinov made an unscheduled appeal on regional radio to his fellow countrymen after the fairly low turnout among the residents of Sakhalin and the Kurils (in the first two hours only 5.88 percent of the electorate voted). After congratulating the islanders on the public holiday, he thanked those who had already taken advantage of their constitutional right and taken part in the second round of voting. The head of regional administration noted that it is gratifying that a lot of elderly people and veterans have been to the polling stations.

Igor Farkhutdinov thinks it unfortunate that it is the younger generation that is not so active. He noted that it is customary for the turnout to be good among the residents of the Kuril islands. Voters in the regional center — and, strangely enough, in a number of rural areas as well — are being passive. This applies to voters in Uglegorskiy, Okhinskiy, and Nogliksiy districts.

The governor did not rule out the possibility that the showing of the next three episodes of "Woman of the Tropics" [Brazilian soap] changed some of the voters' plans, and expressed the hope that many viewers will go to the polling stations once they have watched it.

Russia: Turnout 'Fairly High' in West Siberian, Altay Regions

LD0307031896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0120 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Jul (Itar-Tass) — The West Siberian and Altay regions started voting in the second round of the presidential elections at 0500.

ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov reports from Novosibirsk that the polling stations have opened in this West Siberian town and region. Over the last few days, the supporters of both Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov have appealed to voters in Novosibirsk region to take an active part in the elections. There are 2 million names on the electoral register. An ITAR-TASS correspondent also reports that contact between Toguchinskiy district of Novosibirsk Region and the automated vote-counting system has been restored thanks to intensive work by experts in the region. Communications were disrupted following a fire at the district center's telephone exchange.

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ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Pavlov reports that 1,833 polling stations opened at exactly 0800 hours local time (0500 hours Moscow time) in the morning in Barnaul and throughout Altay Kray. The electoral register for repeat voting contains 1,927,557 names.

ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Temeyev informs us that 214 polling stations opened wide their doors to voters in the Republic of Altay. At eight of them, which are located in mountainous parts of the republic which are difficult of access, the voting was held in advance.

In Tuva and Khakasia, Krasnoyarsk Kray, Tomsk and Kemerovo regions, voting started an hour earlier than in Altay (0400 hours Moscow time).

The first information is coming in on the turnout of voters at today's elections in the Far Eastern regions of the country.

ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Savelev reports from Khabarovsk that the turnout in the territory is considerably greater than on 16 June. By 1000 hours local time, 118,952 people, that is 11.31 percent of those on the electoral roll, had voted in Khabarovsk Kray. That is almost 1.5 percent more than at the same time in the first round of voting.

More than 8 percent of Kamchatka's residents voted in the elections in the first two hours after the polling stations opened, ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov reports from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. Turnout in the peninsula in the first morning hours of the runoff in the Russian presidential election is fairly high, almost the same as during the first round. The region's electoral commission informed us that 8.4 percent of the voters had voted here by 1000 hours local time. For the moment, the elections are being held without excesses. The regional commission has not received any complaints.

One out of every four voters had voted in the Koryak autonomous territory by midday, the ITAR-TASS correspondent reports, quoting information received from Palana, the territory's center.

ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gorelov reports from Birobidzhan that, according to the electoral commission, 10.83 percent of the voters, 1.88 percent more than in the first round, had voted at polling stations in the Jewish Autonomous Region in the first two hours after the polling stations opened.

Freelance ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Ilves reports from Magadan that according to operational information from the regional electoral commission, 10,794 of the 161,824 voters have voted — 6.67 percent.

ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vinogradov and Eduard Popov report from Vladivostok that by 1000 hours local time, 7.98 percent of the electorate had voted in the second round of the Russian presidential elections in Maritime Kray, that is 0.51 percent more than during the voting on 16 June.

Russia: 46 Percent of Servicemen Vote by Midday 3 Jul

LD0307101596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0918 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Forty-six percent of the Russian serviceman have cast their ballots by midday July 3, the Defense Ministry told Interfax Wednesday.

In the Far Eastern military district the turnout stood at 92 percent, in the Lake Baykal district — 81 percent in the Siberian military district — 66 percent, in the Urals military district — 94.3 percent, in the Moscow military district — 38.4 percent, in the Volga military district — 38 percent, in the North Caucasian military district — 37 percent and in the Leningrad military district — 36 percent. Thirty-four percent of the servicemen have cast their ballots in the western most Kaliningrad region.

The turnout rate in the Pacific Fleet stood at 100 percent, in the Northern Fleet — 52 percent, in the Baltic Fleet — 31 percent and in the Black Sea Fleet — 33 percent.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said that all of the Russian units based in Chechnya and in Bosnia (the multinational contingent for implementing the Dayton agreements) have already cast their ballots.

In the Russian grouping based in Transdnestria the turnout stood at 40 percent, in Tajikistan 72 percent and in the Russian army group in the Trans-Caucasus 71 percent.

About 50 percent of the military cadets have also cast their votes by midday.

As many as 46,568 servicemen have cast their ballots in out-of-the-way regions.

The servicemen's turnout is 3-5 times higher than that of the civil population.

"To put the servicemen in a good mood, festive breakfasts were served for them and concerts by more than 250 amateur performers given, said the Defense Ministry source.

The same source reports that representatives of the presidential candidates' support groups, observers and journalists are present in most of the polling stations where servicemen are voting.

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Russia: Analyst Says 3 Jul Turnout Close to First Round Level

LD0307071696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0652 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Jul (Itar-Tass) — Voter activity today is virtually at the same level as in the first round of the presidential election on 16 June. Journalists were told this today by Dmitriy Oreshkin, chief analyst for the Central Electoral Commission, at the opening of the Federal Information Center.

The Vybory state automated system gave the following figures at 1000 Moscow time: 45 percent of the electorate voted in Chukotka; 40 percent in the Koryak Autonomous Area; 39 percent in the Jewish Autonomous Region; 36 percent in Sakhalin; 32 percent in Magadan Region; and 38.5 percent in Khabarovsk Kray.

Voter turnout in Moscow is high: 8 percent have voted in two hours.

Russia: Luzhkov Concerned About Low Turnout

LD0307094296 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0848 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just managed to get in contact with Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. He is worried by the low turnout by Moscow voters at the polling stations and he appeals to you today via Ekho Moskvy.

[Luzhkov] Good day, dear Muscovites. Today is 3 July, election day, our day of destiny, I would call it. I have just returned from the polling station and I saw that the activity of Muscovites today is lower than it was on 16 June. But it is today when our fate is being decided. It is today and not on 16 June that we elect our president, today that we elect the man who will lead the state, the man who, of course, will determine the way bodies of state power treat Moscow.

I would like to voice my concern that at present we are displaying a certain degree of apathy, we do not feel the significance, the historic significance of the moment which the whole of our country is undergoing. I strongly urge you to go to the polling station, to get up off your sofas, to leave your spades, leave your axes and your rakes; go to the polling stations and vote.

How you vote is up to you. But I would wish that we, all of us together, should say what we want from this state power, whom we wish to see as president. And that is the main thing now. The main thing is that the president should not be elected by small numbers of people but that the people, in all its masses, and by its will should determine whom it wishes to see as president.

I strongly urge you, dear Muscovites, leave whatever you are doing and go to the polling stations. It is today that our fate is being decided, not yesterday, not on the 16th, but today and for the whole of the next four years. And I would say it is not just for the next four years, because today we are crossing a Rubicon and if today we make the right decision then it will create stable conditions for the development of our society for the whole future.

Therefore, do not fail to pay attention to what we all must do precisely now, precisely on election day. I urge you to go to the polling station and have your say, express your attitude to the historic moment in the fate of Russia. I think that you will heed this appeal. I think that you will carry out this appeal. Thank you.

Russia: Schedule for Release of Election Progress Information Given

LD0207162196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — The preparation of the Central Electoral Commission's Federal Information Center for the elections has been completed. The center will start receiving information on the progress of the vote throughout the whole country on July 3.

The center will receive and transfer the first data on the vote in Russia's Far East and Siberia to mass media by 10:00 a.m. Moscow time, the center told Interfax. The center plans to organize a TV link with Khabarovsk in which the chairman of the territorial electoral commission is to take part.

The center also plans to organize TV links with the participation of the chairmen of the electoral commissions from the Krasnoyarsk territory, the Samara region and St.Petersburg.

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov will make public the first preliminary information on results of the vote in Russia's Far East at 11:00 p.m. on July 3.

The information on the vote in 75-90 percent of polling stations in Russia's Far East, Siberia, and part of the Urals and Trans-Ural region is expected to be made public at 8:00 a.m. on July 4. The center is expected to receive preliminary information on the vote at 40-50 percent of polling stations in the central regions of the country by this time. More precise data on the results of the vote are to be presented at 6:00 p.m. on July 4.

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Russia: Official Election Results Expected 6-7 Jul

LD0307094396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0826 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Official results of the second round of Russian presidential elections will be announced by the Central Electoral Commission on July 6 or 7, Deputy Chairman of the Commission Aleksandr Ivanchenko told Interfax Wednesday.

The new president of Russia shall be inaugurated within a month after official results are published, he said. Ivanchenko does not exclude the new president will be inaugurated "a bit earlier than August 6-7 because we have to take into account summer vacations."

Despite the smaller number of presidential candidates in the second round, "the Central Electoral Commission and local electoral commission have plenty of work to do. What is more, responsibility and precision in the calculation of votes grow higher," he said.

Preliminary voting results in the Russian Far East, Siberia and the Urals will be published by the Central Electoral Commission at 11 p.m. Moscow time on July 3. More information on voting in Siberia will be announced by 3 a.m. on July 4. Preliminary voting results in the European part of Russia, including Moscow and St. Petersburg will become known at 8 a.m. on July 4.

Russia: Two Rounds of Elections To Cost Country R1 Trillion

LD0207183396 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The two rounds of the presidential elections will cost the country 1 trillion rubles [R]. Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, said that Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov already gathered the maximum amount which can be accrued in one's election fund, in the first round. The presidential candidates will have to account for how they spend money from their election funds a month after the results of the elections are summed up.

Russia: Zavgayev, Army Commander Meet Chechen Electorate

LD0207190196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Jul 96

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Groznyy, 2 Jul (Itar-Tass) — Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen republic, and General Anatoliy Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasian Military District, today visited one of the most outlying districts of Chechnya — Achkhoy-Martanovskiy, where voting in the presidential elections is under way. Doku Zavgayev cast his vote at one of the district's polling stations. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this by Colonel Yakov Firsov, head of the North Caucasian district's press center. [passage omitted]

Arriving here by helicopter, the head of the republic and the commander of the North Caucasian Military District met the electorate in Achkhoy-Martan. During the meeting Doku Zavgayev stressed the importance and significance for the republic of two categories of citizens — the elderly and the young. The first of these, Zavgayev said, represents experience and the wisdom of the people, and the other represents hope for the future.

Doku Zavgayev told the gathering that the necessary funds for compensation have reached the republic and payments will begin in the near future.

Anatoliy Kvashnin assured the electorate that the course toward a peaceful settlement in Chechnya will be continued. He reminded the people that he gave an instruction to the troops before their withdrawal from the republic to help the national economy. For example, according to the commander's instruction, the military have set up in Shatoy special equipment for the production of electricity in local conditions. A military hospital is open at which ordinary people will be able to receive treatment.

The general pointed out that the withdrawal of the 245th Motor Rifle Regiment is only the beginning. Other units will follow. In particular, a tactical group deployed in the Achkhoy-Martan area will soon be on its way to Khankala and then to its places of permanent deployment in Russia.

***Russia: Second Round Distribution of Political Forces Analyzed**

964F2668A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mikhail Gorshkov, general director of the RNISiNP and member of the Political Science Academy: "Where the Sociologists Turned Out To Be Right, And How They See Second-Round Prospects"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Of course, a deeper and more comprehensive analysis of sociologists' performance during the election campaign is still ahead. Nevertheless, a sufficiently balanced and precise evaluation can be made and conclusions drawn hot on the heels of the event—by the results of the first-round vote. I will use as a basis the Russian Independent Social and Ethnic Problems Institute (RNISiNP) forecasts, prepared from the results of nationwide population surveys conducted

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regularly over the period of February through June, the results of which were regularly published (see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA for 6 March, 28 March, 24 April, 23 May, and 11 June 1996). It was in the latest publication that, on the basis of the 8 June survey, we took the plunge and issued a sociological and political-science forecast for the results of the first-round vote. Where does our forecast coincide and where does it differ from the actual results of the 16 June elections?

First, from the very first February publication to the last days before the elections, we maintained that the presidential race would not end at the first round.

Second, despite the hail of criticism from "third force" representatives and other candidates alternately allying themselves with it, flinging accusations that sociologists ostensibly are imposing on society a false choice between only two politicians—B. Yeltsin and G. Zyuganov, in our forecasts we consistently worked from the premise that the main battle would unfold between these two, and that it would be they who would end the first round of the elections well ahead of the other candidates.

Third, RNISiNP polls were the first to predict the May turning point in the election race, when the incumbent president became its sole leader. Since the middle of May all our forecasts predicted him as an unquestionable winner in the first round.

Fourth, as a comparison of our political-science forecast (published on 11 June 1996 and based on the RNISiNP's latest sociological ratings) with the actual election results shows, practically the entire group of presidential hopefuls ended up in the ranking order we predicted, including A. Lebed, whom we placed third in our forecast, albeit with a considerably smaller margin over G. Yavlinskiy than it turned out in the end.

And finally, fifth, our error in forecast estimates of the results achieved by all candidates was 1.5 percent and turned out to be within the sample's statistical error (up to 4 percent).

B. Yeltsin	35 (35-37)
G. Zyuganov	32 (28-30)
G. Yavlinskiy	7.4 (7-8)
V. Zhirinovskiy	5.8 (6-8)

Lebed is a separate topic, but with respect to the other candidates who won up to 1 percent of the vote, the forecast error also was small—0.5-1 percent on average.

But even professional sociology's capabilities are limited in some instances, which actually was demonstrated by the elections.

From April through June, 85-87 percent of the population—and not only according to our polls but others' too—expressed a firm intention to vote in the presidential elections. But the actual turnout was only about 70 percent. The special correction coefficient we introduced, which enabled us to come up with a more precise forecast of a 75 percent turnout, did not change the substance of the matter: A considerable part of the electorate intended to vote but never backed up this intent with the civil act. The result was precisely what we predicted in the previous publication—and on the basis of concrete data, for that matter: If the voter turnout ends up being considerably lower than intended, B. Yeltsin will not win over G. Zyuganov by a large margin.

The lower than expected voter turnout was the result of many factors. The countryside-weekend season, a soccer game, hot weather in some regions. In my opinion, however, B. Yeltsin's own mistake contributed to this, too—his assertion a week before the elections that he would win in the first round. Undoubtedly, part of the electorate, trustful of his intuition and under the influence of his impressive propaganda campaign, decided to tend to their own business, believing his victory assured.

A. Lebed, on the other hand, earned his rather unexpected points by purposeful actions, conducting the last preelection week practically flawlessly. This is true in particular of his advertising offensive, aimed first and foremost at the undecided voter from the standpoint of its form and content, as well as its massive psychological impact. In our latest forecast we mentioned the possibility that some candidate will use television advertising particularly effectively in the last few days before the elections, when it will be too late for sociologists to measure the effect. Lebed's main surprise is not at all that he came in third (as I already noted, this was within the forecast)—it was the fact that he won practically twice as large a share of the vote as his nearest rival, G. Yavlinskiy, who had long claimed the leadership role in the "third force," which the retired general had been offered the chance to join. Our forecast predicted A. Lebed with 9 percent of the vote, but he won almost 15 percent in the first round. Thus outplaying not only G. Yavlinskiy and V. Zhirinovskiy, who won a lesser share of the vote combined, but also sociolo-

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gists by going outside the permissible statistical error of 4 percent.

Overall, our results in forecasting the first-round outcome may be considered satisfactory. Which means that we have grounds to try to determine what awaits us in the future.

Before the Runoff

So what is the alignment of forces between the runoff participants?

Let us try to answer this question using data of the RNISiNP's nationwide survey conducted on the eve of the first round of elections in 15 territorial-economic regions, which polled 2,200 respondents representing the main socioeconomic groups. The survey's statistical error is 4 percent.

All data published below are given as a percentage of those who expressed an intention to vote in the runoff election. And, according to the survey data, at this point 77 percent of eligible voters intend to vote in the runoff. An adjusted forecast of voter turnout in the runoff suggests a figure of 63-65 percent.

For G. Zyuganov such a situation is quite acceptable, keeping in mind that his electorate is more disciplined and mobilized. B. Yeltsin, on the other hand, may not be happy with this kind of turnout. Even if it does not deprive him of victory, it could make it, as it did in the first round, not very convincing.

Among those who have decided to vote in the runoff elections, 53-55 percent intend to vote for B. Yeltsin, and 38-40 percent—for G. Zyuganov; 5-9 percent may vote against both.

Among the male population, 55 percent are ready to support B. Yeltsin, 38 percent—G. Zyuganov, and 7 percent intend to vote against both. The preliminary distribution of votes among women is about the same: 57 percent for B. Yeltsin, 35 percent—G. Zyuganov, and 8 percent—against both.

Electoral preferences among different age groups may be judged from the data presented in Table 1.

Electoral Preferences of Different Age Groups, In Percents

	Will vote in the runoff elections			
Age group	for B. Yeltsin	for G. Zyuganov	against both	Total
Under 21	70.1	16.6	13.3	100
21-25	81.9	8.9	9.2	100
26-30	67.5	15.0	17.5	100
31-40	62.3	26.7	11.0	100
41-50	52.1	41.0	6.9	100
51-60	46.7	50.1	3.2	100
Over 60	34.2	59.5	6.3	100

No less suggestive are the data presented in Table 2 and reflecting electoral preferences across different socioprofessional groups.

Electoral Preferences of Different Socioprofessional Groups, In Percents

	Will vote in the runoff elections			
Socioprofessional group	for B. Yeltsin	for G. Zyuganov	against both	Total
Workers	48.4	35.6	16.0	100

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	Will vote in the runoff elections			
Engineering-technical personnel	57.9	36.3	5.8	100
Humanities and creative intelligentsia	70.3	26.8	2.9	100
Trade and consumer services sector workers	84.5	15.5	0.0	100
White-collar and civil service workers	76.8	22.1	1.1	100
Small and medium-size business owners	95.7	4.3	0.0	100
Agricultural workers	40.8	54.4	4.8	100
Military servicemen and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] personnel	64.5	14.2	21.3	100
Urban pensioners	42.9	53.5	3.6	100
College students	83.7	7.0	9.3	100

As the data above show, G. Zyuganov has a perceptible advantage only among agricultural workers and urban pensioners, as well as substantial support among workers and engineering-technical personnel groups. Very indicative and self-explanatory are the data presented in Table 3, which reflect the political preferences of persons with different degrees of satisfaction with their material situation.

Electoral Preferences of Persons With Different Degrees of Satisfaction With Their Material Situation, in Percents

Electorate's appraisal of their material situation	Will vote in the runoff elections			Total
	for B. Yeltsin	for G. Zyuganov	against both	
Completely satisfactory	84.4	15.6	0.0	100
Generally satisfactory	91.2	8.8	0.0	100
Partly satisfactory	71.4	23.5	5.1	100
General unsatisfactory	41.1	49.0	9.9	100
Completely unsatisfactory	35.0	54.8	10.2	100

One of the most interesting questions is how the votes cast for candidates who have dropped out of the election battle may be redistributed in the runoff election. The data in Table 4 present a very eloquent picture in this respect.

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Electoral Preferences in the Runoff Depending on Person's Vote in the First Round, in Percents

Whom the electorate voted for in the first round	Will vote in the runoff elections			Total
	for B. Yeltsin	for G. Zyuganov	against both, or will not vote	
1. V. Bryntsalov	32.3	00.0	67.7	100
2. Yu. Vlasov	55.4	18.5	26.1	100
3. M. Gorbachev	59.6	9.9	30.5	100
4. B. Yeltsin	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
5. V. Zhirinovskiy	25.2	26.7	48.1	100
6. G. Zyuganov	0.0	100.0	0.0	100
7. A. Lebed	25.9	25.2	48.9	100
9. Sv. Fedorov	43.0	15.2	41.8	100
10. M. Shakkum	27.6	18.5	53.9	100
11. G. Yavlinskiy	57.9	7.7	34.4	100

Taking into account the results of the first-round vote and the data presented in Table 4, it is not difficult to calculate that of all those who voted on 16 June for all candidates for president, in the runoff B. Yeltsin has a chance of gaining an additional 12 percent. The difference between this and his potential final share in this round (53-55 percent) probably will be made up from those who did not vote in the first round but expressed the intent to vote in the runoff. G. Zyuganov can hope to gain an additional 7 percent from the redistributed vote. Adding this share of the electorate to what he received in the first round gives him the maximum figure he can count on—at least at this point—48 percent. In other words, G. Zyuganov has practically no reserve margin among those who did not participate in the first-round vote but intend to vote in the runoff.

Naturally, the biggest effort has begun in "chasing" A. Lebed's supporters. As one can see from the presented data, before his inclusion in the president's team, one half of his supporters were divided practically equally between the two contenders. The other half of his electorate was either negative with respect to both, or passive. A similar split one can see among V. Zhirinovskiy's supporters.

In conclusion, I would like to note the following. All the data presented above were obtained on the eve of the first round of balloting. Which means that they do not yet show the influence of the announced results of the vote. There is no doubt that such an effect exists. It is not, however, entirely clear what exactly it is. Did the published results reinforce the political nerve of either contender's supporters or, on the contrary, weaken it?

It should also be kept in mind that the data in Table 4 reflect a spontaneous—that is, impulsive—redistribution of votes among the first-round electorate. What will happen, however, to this redistribution after coalitions are formed? How will the appeals of former candidates to their supporters to vote for B. Yeltsin or G. Zyuganov affect electoral behavior? And what effect will the appeals to vote again for both have? As the answers to these and many other questions become clear, the data presented above on the correlation of strengths of the two contenders may easily change.

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Russia: Yeltsin Adviser Views Foreign Policy After Election

AU0307095996 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 3 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by "ub": "Yeltsin's Election Will End Power Struggles in Kremlin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn — In the event of Boris Yeltsin's reelection, the West can expect a foreign policy initiative by Russia. This was announced by Yeltsin adviser Sergey Karaganov during his visit to Bonn at the beginning of this week. During talks with the German Society for Foreign Policy and with diplomats, Karaganov hinted that Russia does not want to reduce its relationship with the West to the issue of NATO expansion. It is high time for progress to be achieved regarding cooperation in the sectors of energy and telecommunications in particular, he stressed. In the latter area, it is important to establish a network with Europe and the United States.

Karaganov is a member of the Presidential Council of the Russian Federation, secretary of the Council for Foreign and Security Policy, and deputy director of the Europe Institute of the Academy of Sciences. According to his knowledge, Yevgeniy Primakov will continue to be responsible for foreign policy in a future Yeltsin government. Yeltsin's adviser also hinted during his talks in Bonn that Russia will never hold negotiations with the West on conditions for NATO's eastward expansion. The objection to the deployment of the NATO "machinery" up to Russia's borders has become fiercer, he stated. The formula "16 plus 1" adopted at the Berlin NATO meeting only contains an approval of the IFOR [Implementation Force] commitment in Bosnia, but cannot be generally applied to the relationship between the 16 NATO states and Russia, let alone to talks on the expansion of NATO. To speak of "17" would be a completely different matter.

In the event of Yeltsin's reelection, Karaganov expects an end to the power struggles in the Kremlin and a long phase of stability. He promised that Moscow will soon actively seek common interests with the West. Relations with Poland, which assumes a key role in the European security architecture, will be fundamentally corrected by Moscow. From all this, experts draw the conclusion that Yeltsin's Russia will accept a "small" NATO expansion to include Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary — even though amid protest.

Russia: Bullish Western Markets Dented by Yeltsin 'Illness'

MM0207122796 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 96

[Article by Igor Abramenko: "London Brokers Voting Already. Russian Shares Surge Then Retreat" — from the "Business Tuesday" section p 1]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unlike Russians, Western business people already know the result of tomorrow's nationwide poll. Or at any rate they can predict it with greater certainty. Otherwise, what is the explanation for their activeness on the stock market at the very time when Russia is choosing not just its leader but the path which the country's economy and finances will be following.

In the opinion of analysts, political instability has done considerable damage to Russia's economy. The overall investment volume handled by Western commercial organizations in the first quarter of 1996 was 28.5-percent down on the fourth quarter of 1995 — at $880 million as opposed to $1.23 billion.

But a week before the end of the presidential race the stock market revived noticeably. And in a fashion that would have been simply unseemly to ignore. To a man, specialists are linking this phenomenon with the increased hopes on the part of most investors for a favorable outcome to the Russian election. The upsurge of interest in Russian securities even reached stuffy Britain. The London financial market, in particular, recorded an unprecedented — almost 20-percent — rise in Russian bonds. Yet, according to Moscow brokers, experienced Western players are showing increased interest not only in bonds but in other Russian securities as well.

This explains the unprecedented "surge" in the share prices of most privatized enterprises after almost six months in which they went sideways. And these were not just the undisputed and already long-established stockmarket leaders but even "second rankers" in which no serious interest had been shown hitherto — the "Samarenergo" Joint-Stock Company, the "Purneftegaz" Joint-Stock Company, "the "Noyabrskneftegaz" Joint-Stock Company, and the "Lenenergo" Joint-Stock Company (whose shares rose by 10-24 percent). We would note that we are talking about enterprises for which one of the contenders has already promised increased state controls in the event of victory....

According to certain brokers, Western investors have adopted a broadly bullish stance without waiting for the results of the Russian poll. Incidentally, on Monday

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share prices were back to where they started. Apparently in reaction to the "president's illness...."

Russia: Yeltsin 'Indisposition' Prevents Memorandum Signature

WS0207084296 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0626 GMT 02 Jul 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow — The signing of the Memorandum on the relations adjustment between Moldova and the Dniester region, planned on July 1, was postponed for unclear term. It was planned that Leonid Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin - the two presidents of the states influenced the process of negotiation between Chisinau and Tiraspol and the guarantors of the Memorandum fulfillment - will be the participants of the ceremony of signing. Bilateral meetings between the President of Ukraine and the President of Moldova and the President of Russia were planned to be held on the same day.

As the INFOBANK correspondent was explained in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the main cause of the changes was Yeltsin's indisposition: he strained his voice during the pre-election campaign. For this reason the President Yeltsin failed to come to the meeting with the representatives of agriculture enterprises in the Kremlin on June 28. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister of Russia, explained on June 28 that the President strained his voice.

Russia: Lyon Summit's Economic Decisions Viewed

MM0307100096 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Russia Must Adapt to Globalization of World Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We support the political reforms taking place in Russia and the commitments it has undertaken in the sphere of democracy. The economic and political reforms reinforce one another and enable Russia to play a more important role in the world economy."

"We express satisfaction at the agreement reached between the Russian authorities and the IMF. The important factor for economic growth now is private investments which will ensure the reliability of the economic, legal, and administrative structures."

"We also rate highly the historic agreement concluded between Russia and the Paris Club on the rescheduling of its foreign debt. This agreement should also help in talks between Moscow and the members of the Paris Club when it comes to setting the conditions on which Russia will be able to participate in it as a member country."

Those are the main provisions dedicated to Russia contained in the economic declaration adopted at the Lyon summit of the highly developed countries. The document also expresses support for Ukraine's efforts to continue the reforms and satisfaction at the treaty between Kiev and the IMF and Leonid Kuchma's commitment to close the Chernobyl nuclear power station's No. 1 reactor before the end of this year.

On the whole the economic part of the summit, in which Viktor Chernomyrdin did not take part but joined the seven for the discussion of foreign policy questions and fundamental questions affecting all mankind, was dominated by the theme of the so-called "globalization" of the world economy. This now extremely fashionable concept denotes the unprecedented economic interdependence of the developed countries' economies, and the world-wide acceleration of the exchange of goods, services, capital, information, and so forth.

Globalization, which has the most direct bearing on Russia too, strengthens the position of the industrially developed countries above all and gives them extra advantages. Conversely, it threatens to aggravate the inequality in the poor and backward states and even lead to the marginalization of whole regions of the world, such as Africa, which is lagging further and further behind world economic development.

However, as the Lyon summit stressed, the rich countries could also suffer from the globalization processes which, if not controlled, will increase unemployment, intensify the instability of the financial markets, and so forth.

Despite the differences within the G-7, the Lyon meeting's economic declaration stresses, the countries generally adhere to a common medium-term economic strategy. It envisages the improvement of state finances, an effective price stabilization policy, and a low interest rate. Such a strategy is designed to stimulate investments, promote economic growth, and create jobs.

In Lyon the G-7 confirmed its intention to continue the fight against international financial fraud which is a serious threat to the whole Western financial system. In addition, the G-7 intends to make a particular target of tax "niches," which create unhealthy financial competition between states, and also to counter corruption in international commercial deals more vigorously.

The G-7 advocated the conclusion within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] by June 1997 of a multilateral investment

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agreement envisaging a high level of investment protection and liberalization, as well as the institution of a mechanism for the settlement of all possible disagreements among states.

Another priority of the Lyon summit was the question of promoting the development of the poorest countries and easing their foreign indebtedness. This is why the leaders of the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO were invited to attend the summit for the first time.

Until now the rescheduling of debts has been restricted to 67 percent but now this threshold will be raised. The World Bank has been instructed to allocate around $2 billion extra to help the poor countries. And although Germany's disagreement means that the IMF has not been allowed to sell some of its gold reserves it must also find additional resources for this purpose.

The Europeans criticized the U.S. legislation which envisages the imposition of sanctions on companies which invest in Cuba, Iran, and Libya. In addition, Paris also objected to the use of such sanctions against countries suspected of involvement in terrorist actions. According to Jacques Chirac, sanctions are counterproductive on the one hand, and, on the other hand, it is "crude" to take a whole people hostage in this way.

Touching on nuclear safety in the light of the recent Moscow summit's decisions, the G-7 and Russia put forward some new initiatives. France, for example, will take measures to ensure that all countries approve the so-called "program for counteracting the unlawful proliferation of nuclear materials."

Finally, the G-8 promised to make 1997 a "breakthrough year" on the environment. International crimes in such areas as the illegal trade in CFC's, hazardous waste, and endangered species are a subject of special concern.

Russia: Foreigners' Role in Moscow's Narcotics Problem Highlighted

MM0207135896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Nikolay Starodymov: "Foreigners' Adventures in Moscow. Alas, These Often Give Law Enforcement Organs a Headache"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This was discussed at the latest briefing held by the Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration Press Service. Mikhail Zabotkin, deputy chief of the Moscow Criminal Investigation Department, and Valentin Ledovskiy, deputy chief of a Moscow Criminal Investigation Department section, took part in its proceedings.

Drugs are one of the main problems associated with the criminal activities of the criminal element of foreign citizens living in the capital. Their importation into Moscow, distribution, and use — an entire section of Moscow Criminal Investigation Department deals with this whole range of crimes. Although the results of its operations are impressive the problem of the "drug addictization," so to speak, of Moscow and of Russia as a whole is very acute.

Portuguese and Nigerians are the main suppliers of the "white death" [heroin] to the Russian capital. Moreover, the tougher the importation of drugs into the country is combated, the more sophisticated the drug runners become. For example, a drug is put into a little polyethylene bubble which the "living container" keeps in his mouth. It is clear that the most sophisticated equipment will not be able to detect and the most experienced dog will not be able to sniff out the dangerous contraband.

It is difficult to list all the damage that drugs can do to us. At the briefing attention was focused on one facet of the problem from the moral viewpoint, so to speak. The point is that little boys are being actively recruited to distribute the "powder." Thus the drugs mafia is cultivating for itself both "young reinforcements" and potential "clients."

One of the problems associated with foreigners' criminal activity is that a country whose citizen has been detained in Moscow on account of those same old drugs, for example, disowns him. There have been cases whereby an unidentified person who is the subject of no one knows what state and who is using a clearly false name has to be handed over to a court. Such incidents are facilitated to a great extent by the "transparency" of borders. One of the ways in which criminals from abroad are penetrating our territory is as follows: Often foreigners come to study at CIS countries' higher educational establishments, from where they make their way to Moscow. There is nowhere to deport them to, because no state wants to accept an obvious criminal. There was a case whereby one of them had be kept in a detention center for a whole year because his country refused to pay for its ticketless citizen's transportation to the border.

Judicial personnel are often criticized at such briefings.... This conversation in the Moscow Criminal Investigation Department was no exception.

... A group of Vietnamese started terrorizing their fellow countrymen. They extorted $15,000 from them and demanded more. In order to get what they wanted they kidnapped people and tortured them. Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration staffers carried out

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a special operation and arrested the extortioners. But the court...freed them.

"We have wasted so much effort, time, and resources! Our staffers risked their lives...." participants in the briefing said.

Indeed, one can understand their indignation.

Answering journalists' questions, Ledovskiy noted with regret that it is not at all difficult to obtain drugs these days. For example, this can be done without any problems at nightclubs and other entertainment establishments. Valentin Nikolayevich also stressed that the internal affairs main administration leadership is categorically against legalizing the use of "soft" drugs.

"Everybody starts on 'soft' drugs but then they cannot stop," he noted.

And lastly. It was mentioned at the briefing that in a 24-hour period between seven and 15 people are arrested in the capital for reasons which are in one way or another associated with drugs. Every day!...

Russia: Official: Iran Plays Important Role in Regional Security

LD0307083796 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 3, IRNA — Russian deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle Eastern and Arab countries' affairs, Viktor Posouvaliuk, Tuesday [2 July] stressed importance of Iran's role in safeguarding security in the region.

Terming Tehran-Moscow ties as friendly and close, Posouvaliuk said in a meeting with the vice-chairman of the foreign policy commission of the Majles, Mohammad Javad Larijani, that long-term security in the region would not be established without participation and presence of Iran.

Stressing that in the light of the existing potentials Tehran- Moscow cooperation is of immense importance, he voiced Moscow's willingness to actively cooperate with Iran to resolve the Tajikistan crisis.

Stating that Tehran-Moscow ties have entered a crucial and important stage, Larijani predicted a bright prospect for bilateral cooperation.

Larijani arrived here Friday to attend the international seminar on education and information held at the initiative of the U.N. Educational, Scientific, Educational Organization (UNESCO).

On regional cooperation between the two countries, Larijani said Russia can play an important role in establishing security and stability as well as creating an atmosphere of trust in the Persian Gulf region and preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. He voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Russia in these fields.

Iran believes in resolving the Tajik crisis through political dialog, he said adding, active and broad cooperation of Iran and Russia can guarantee establishment of peace and launching of reconstruction efforts in Tajikistan.

The seminar opened at Moscow University on July 2 and is to end next Saturday.

Russia: Foreign Ministry 'Seeks All-Around Ties' With Afghanistan

MM0207140896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Our Mission in Kabul Manages With One Diplomat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported from Kabul that Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, has agreed to head a new government and, therefore, to a truce with his recent rival, President Borhanoddin Rabbani. This is seen as a stabilizing factor, a portent of the end of the war.

The four-year confrontation between these two figures has cost Afghanistan dear. During the internecine war the mojahedin have destroyed more cities, villages, and enterprises than in all the years of the Soviet occupation. The country is virtually split into several parts in which various groupings rule the roost. The "Taleban" movement in the south, Rashid Dostam in the north, Hekmatyar and the "neutralists" in the east, and Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the center.

Nearly all foreign missions, except for those of India, Iraq, Turkey, and Indonesia and some humanitarian missions, have quit Kabul. The Russian embassy complex on the outskirts, comprising more than 10 buildings, including houses, lies in ruins. The most beautiful building in Kabul, the Russian culture center, met the same fate.

At Hekmatyar's swearing-in ceremony in the presidential palace, there were words about "eternal peace and national unity."

Bornahoddin Rabbani appeared on Kabul radio and urged all countries to restore their diplomatic missions and thus help the Afghan people find accord as soon as possible and reestablish normal life. The Afghan foreign minister sent a special proposal to Smolenskaya Square. It says that the Afghan Government is banking on the Russian diplomats' return. A new location has already been allocated for them in one of the safest areas of

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Kabul. There is no question of returning to the old buildings, because they cannot be repaired and rebuilt.

Through Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the Information and Press Department, the Russian Foreign Ministry expounded its position on this question, pointing out that Russia is seeks to develop all-around ties with Afghanistan and is prepared to play a bigger part in the settlement of the conflict situation. At the moment relations are maintained via our consulate general in Mazar-e Sharif and embassies in adjoining countries.

Yevgeniy Primakov's special representative for Afghanistan, Aleksandr Oblov, is currently touring the region. He visited Kabul and held talks there, including talks on the embassy.

Russia: No Participation in Removing Bosnia War Crime Suspects

LD0207153496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) - Russia does not intend to participate in any operations aimed at the isolation or removal of people suspected of committing crimes on Bosnia's territory, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Lukov told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday when asked whether Russia will participate in detaining Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Moscow "has repeatedly attracted the attention of its partners to the fact that (the Implementation Force IFOR) has no mandate from the U.N. Security Council to carry out such operations," Lukov said.

"The instructions of the international tribunal on former Yugoslavia cannot serve as a legal basis for IFOR's actions, especially in a coercive detention of anybody," he said.

The situation with Karadzic is one of the problems of the Bosnian conflict which "has been already solved on many levels. Karadzic has left his post and will not take part in the elections but this does not prevent him from being the leader of one of the largest parties of Bosnian Serbs," Lukov said.

This circumstance, Lukov said, "cannot hinder the process of the peace settlement in the region."

Russia: 'Mass Violations' of Russian-Speakers' Rights in Baltics

LD0207183896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 2 Jul 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has raised the issue of Russian language speakers in the Baltic countries with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday.

According to him, the Russian side drew Washington's attention to the plight of Russian speakers in Latvia and particularly in Estonia.

"Hundreds of thousands of fellow countrymen in Estonia and Latvia have been deprived and are being deprived of citizenship," he quoted the document as saying. "Their position is rather difficult, there is still a big gap in the political, social, economic and cultural rights of citizens and non-citizens."

"All these are flagrant mass violations of human rights," says the document.

According to Demurin, the document also says that both Tallinn and Riga ignore the recommendations of independent international experts about the need to change the domestic legislation, "and react to the direct and indirect support on the part of some states as if they agree with their course to infringe upon their the rights and freedoms of the Russian-speaking population."

He also said that in the document Yeltsin firmly spoke out against attempts to expand NATO. "The prospect of the Baltic states membership in NATO is absolutely unacceptable and any steps in this direction would be considered as a challenge to the interests of Russia's national security, as undermining of the European stability and cooperation," says the document.

Russia: Arms Manufacturers Generate Interest at Paris Show

MM0307105696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from closing day of Le Bourget arms show by S. Zenin, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[161740] [Zenin over general arms show footage] Today is the final day of Europe's biggest show featuring ground forces arms. So what are the results? The press

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gets to know only the most superficial details. Everything else is confined to documents marked "Classified."

The Russians have achieved a great deal here. Journalists know that a contract has been signed with the French for joint production of the "Grad" multiple rocket launcher system.

The Russian arms catalogue has been presented to the whole world.

[M. Kustov, chief editor of the Voyennyy Parad [Military Parade] Publishing House, identified by caption] High combat efficiency, reliability, simple servicing and application in combat — these are the features of Russian weapons.

[Zenin over video of Russian hardware] Our equipment is less sophisticated. We are not used to putting rubber slippers on tank tracks so as not to damage the road surface. Design refinements are not our forte. But, on the other hand, all our missiles hit the target with the utmost precision, and the close grouping of shots is guaranteed. This is why the Rosvooruzheniye stands were so crowded. There was one delegation after another. People are interested in negotiating with the Russians. Documents are being dispatched to Moscow in the diplomatic bag. Behind each one of these documents is the prospect of a contract running to many million dollars.

[V. Pogrebenkov, head of the Rosvooruzheniye press center at the exhibition, identified by caption] We were received really well here in Paris. We knew there would be interest in us, but honestly speaking we did not expect to see so much interest. [161847] [video shows general arms show footage, Russian stand, Kustov, Pogrebenkov statements]

Russia: Secret Defense Ministry Nuclear Rocket Institute Profiled

OW0307005496 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Liliya Lashchenko video report; from the "I Serve the Fatherland" Feature of the "TeleUtro" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] No Russian journalist has ever set foot inside this place. For the first time the Utro program is in Chertogi, a place previously behind seven seals. With a siren wailing the nine-ton concrete doors open at a leisurely pace in 40 seconds. We enter the accelerator injector laboratory, one of the laboratories of the Fourth Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Defense. The institution was established on 28 June exactly half a century ago. It is engaged in selecting the main direction of development and maintenance of high combat readiness of the most powerful nuclear missile arms in the history of mankind. [video shows heavy door at entrance to facility, interior of laboratory, Lashchenko interviewing V.B. Bugayev, chief of the laboratory]

[Begin recording] [Lashchenko] Is it dangerous for your health to be here?

[Bugayev] It is not dangerous to be here when the systems are not working. However there is some radiation when separate systems are in operation, but the level is low. When the entire installation is in operation on the other hand, the level is deadly and one cannot be here. [end recording]

During the first years of its activities the institute was engaged in studying and applying the country's experience in jet-propelled weapons. In 1946 a group of scientists was sent to Germany to study German rocket technology. In the fifties the first medium range strategic missiles appeared in our country. And once again in the sixties the institute joined in the creation of the first RS-12 intercontinental solid fuel missile. The development of silo-launch installations was begun. Research into the use of outer space for strengthening the country's defensive might began. [video shows Major General V. Z. Dvorkin, chief of the scientific research institute speaking]

[Begin Dvorkin recording] The main problem facing us today is related to maintaining the combat readiness of the existing group of strategic rocket forces, the creation of combat control systems for strategic forces, and introduction of modernized rocket complexes which must make up the basis of the strategic nuclear forces group after the year 2000.

Particular attention in the work of the institute is now being attached to such problems as nuclear security which has undoubtedly been exacerbated in connection with the current situation. This demands both new approaches, new demands, and new organizational and technical solutions. [end recording]

Thirty doctors of technical sciences and 500 candidates of technical sciences work at the institute. New personnel come from among officers who have served in the rocket forces and graduates of higher military educational institutions. There is no personnel drain today. Russia's strategic nuclear forces are the only instrument for deterring the aggressor. Any possible enemy is within their reach. The threat of war has decreased today but it would be wrong to ignore the contradictions between Russia's national state interests and that of other states, the territorial pretensions toward us of some neighbors, military conflicts in border regions, as well as NATO's impending expansion to the East.

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Political Issues

Russia: Kremlin Spokesman Denies Rumors of Yeltsin's Death

AU0207185696 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 2 (AFP) — A Kremlin spokesman denied Tuesday evening rumours that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had died on the eve of a presidential run-off vote.

"I can officially say that President Yeltsin is alive," the spokesman said. "We can link this type of rumour to financial games or market speculation."

The spokesman added that Yeltsin would cast his ballot as planned at a polling station near his dacha at Barvikha west of Moscow in Wednesday's vote.

Yeltsin has adopted a low profile during the past week, suffering from fatigue and problems with his voice after a gruelling election campaign.

Intense speculation has surrounded the health of the president, who suffered two heart attacks last year, amid his bid for re-election against Communist challenger Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Says 'No Need So Far' for Vice Presidency

LD0307073296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0657 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov, Artem Protasenko, Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Jul (Itar-Tass) — "There is no need so far" to introduce the post of vice president in Russia, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, told journalists after casting his vote at a polling station. "We have the Constitution. Life will show if and when we need it," the premier stressed.

Russia: Lebed Denies Involvement in Dismissal of Officials

LD0207120996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1155 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Secretary of Russia's Security Council Aleksandr Lebed has denied rumors about his active involvement in dismissing ex-head of the president's security service Aleksandr Korzhakov, former FSB chief Mikhail Barsukov and ex-First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets on June 20.

"I did not dismiss either Korzhakov or Soskovets, and made no efforts to do so," he told Interfax Tuesday.

"I resolutely reject involvement in such a 'coup'," he said.

"I guess the president has been thinking about these dismissals for a long time," he went on to say. "My arrival only accelerated decision-making. I was only a catalyst of the process," he said.

"I neither appointed nor dismissed them. It's the president's business," said Lebed.

Russia: Lebed Promises To Curb Any Undermining of National Security

LD0207131196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Aleksandr Lebed, Russian Security Council secretary and presidential adviser on national security, told a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday that he would control the development of Russian reforms and bring an end to any attempts to undermine Russian national security.

He also introduced his concept for ensuring the country's national security.

The absence of an economic strategy and a rational system for state management of the economy represents a major threat to Russia's national security, Lebed said.

"All of the financial sector is under threat. A serious banking crisis has evolved," he went on to say.

"Further curbing of inflation and tightening of money regulations without a structural industrial policy will lead to massive bankruptcies and further decline," Lebed said.

In order to stimulate economic growth in the country, Russia primarily needs to reduce the gap between exports and national production, Lebed believes. However, this should be done by accelerating the development of domestic production rather than by braking exports, he said.

Lebed also commented on what he sees as "the country's present dependence on Western food supplies." "Nobody will manage to do anything without a market of land relations, without paying real attention to workers of the agricultural-industrial complex. If the flow of food imports is cut off, Russia will find itself in the clutches of hunger in two-three months," he said.

The country needs "a comprehensive program to support Russian women" that would help protect them against "unemployment, low wages and unclear future of their children," said Lebed.

While explaining his national security concept, he also emphasized the need to "restore the state system of

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summer holiday camps for children and children's health centers."

Among other urgent measures, Lebed cited "such measures as better free medical care for children and guarantees concerning free education, at least free secondary education," Lebed said.

Russia: Duma Committee Official Views Lebed's 'Tough Position'

LD0207181896 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aleksandr Lebed, the president's aide for national security and secretary of the Security Council, today proved, at least in words, that he has fully mastered his new duties and that he has set about doing his business. He listed all the main aspects of his department's work. Lebed has demonstrated that his national security concept will pervade literally all walks of life in this country. He will attend to every single sector. The general also spoke about social security for servicemen, special job centers for those discharged into the reserve, and the need to reinstate state summer holiday camps. Aleksandr Lebed stated his intention to combat the stupefying influence on the population of the special services [as heard] and of the advertising business. He intends to be involved in the economy and ecology. [passage omitted]

Aleksandr Lebed intends to tighten up the visa and passport regime for foreigners. In addition, the president's aide intends to ban even temporary trips abroad for those who have financial commitments in Russia.

[Begin Lebed recording] This does not at all mean, dear friends, creating a new Iron Curtain or closing the country. But the country must defend itself in a civilized way. Too many things which should not leave the country are being taken out of it, without due payment. And much of what the country has absolutely no need of is brought in: take explosive devices, for instance. [end recording]

The tough position of the secretary of the Security Council will no doubt arouse disagreement in diplomatic circles. In any case Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs committee, has already voiced such disagreement.

[Begin Lukin recording] There is a remarkable Chinese saying: in order to remove flies, one must clean one's room and open windows. If one shuts up windows, it will be stuffy and it will be difficult to breathe. That is my answer. We have, thank God, international obligations. It is one of our great achievements that we have opened our windows in the last 10 years of our history. Now we need order. In this respect I agree with General Lebed. We need order near our windows. It is necessary to prevent various suspicious people sneaking through these windows. This is delicate and difficult work for law-enforcement bodies. If Aleksandr Ivanovich redresses this, it will be to his great credit and honor. If instead doors and windows close, however, then the country will again be covered in mould and rubbish, the air will be stuffy, and it will be impossible to live here. [end recording]

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Willing To Join Political Consultative Council

LD0207122096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and its faction in Russia's State Duma Vladimir Zhirinovskiy intends to take an active part in the work of the Political Consultative Council led by State Duma deputy Ivan Rybkin, which was formed at the initiative of President Yeltsin recently.

Interfax learned this from him at the end of the first organizational session held to determine the council's membership and structure.

He is willing to lead one of the council's chambers, "if necessary," Zhirinovskiy said. However, he added, "it would be better, if a member of his party's parliamentary faction, which includes many experienced specialists, would do it," since he himself is too busy with his work in the State Duma, Zhirinovskiy said.

Russia: Korzhakov Denies Appointment to Administration

LD0307075396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0728 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Aleksandr Korzhakov, former head of President Boris Yeltsin's security service who was sacked in June over an alleged coup attempt, denied media reports on Wednesday that he has been appointed to the presidential administration.

Korzhakov told Interfax before voting in the second round of presidential elections that he is temporarily unemployed and has not been offered any position.

"These rumors are being spread by those who helped sack me," he said, adding that "I supported and support President Yeltsin."

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Russia: Chechen 'Extremists' Arrested in Moscow; Explosives Seized

LD0207165996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations with our closest neighbors do not always promise only the benefit of economic cooperation. For Russia this now means the border states with all the ensuing consequences.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent A. Dubnov] During the period 1-2 June, the Federal Security Service carried out an operation to suppress channels of delivery into Russia of highly destructive explosive substances and devices, which, according to the data of the Federal Security Service, are being manufactured in a number of foreign states at a professional level and are being sent to Russia. Couriers trying to bring a consignment of radio-controlled mines into Moscow for later sale were caught red-handed.

[A. Zdanovich, head of public relations of the Federal Security Services] Eight explosive devices were confiscated from them, with each device containing 800 grams of (?plastic) — this is a serious explosive substance equivalent to 3.2 kilograms of TNT.

[Dubnov] An explosive device of precisely this capacity was used recently in the Moscow metro. The danger here lies in the fact that they were put together.

[Zdanovich] These explosive devices had already been loaded and fully charged and they could have gone off anywhere at any time. They had been hidden on public transport; in particular, they had been transported in railway carriages and hidden in apartment blocks.

[Dubnov] All the mines had been sent to Russia from one of the Baltic countries. The traders in death valued each mine at $3,000. The explosive devices could have found their way into anyone's hands, including extremists.

[Zdanovich] Just like those that caused the explosion in the metro or the blast in the bus in Nalchik.

[Dubnov] The northern Caucasus, which is crammed with weapons and explosives, often springs nasty surprises on us. In Kabardino-Balkaria, the Prokhladnaya [English: "cool"] station may not have lived up to its name. Members of the federal security services dismantled a large explosive device here.

[Zdanovich] ...which was programmed to go off at 1200, precisely the time most trains would have been in the station, and, consequently, a large number of people.

[Dubnov] In addition, according to the Federal Security Service, the ringleader and most members of a gang of Chechens who came to Moscow to organize explosions and other extremist acts have been detained in the capital. Explosives, grenades, weapons, and drugs have been seized from them. [video shows security service footage of raid on a flat in Moscow, Zdanovich at the briefing, still of aftermath of recent blast in Moscow metro, explosives seized in latest operation] [end recording]

Russia: FSB Reports 65 Terrorist Threats Over Past 10 Days in Moscow

LD0307094896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0838 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 3 (Interfax) — Over the past ten days, Moscow's FSB [Federal Security Service] Department has checked 65 telephone calls with threats of terrorist acts, the FSB's Public Relations Center told Interfax Wednesday. Six explosive devices were found in places of possible terrorist acts.

The same source said that on the eve of the presidential elections and on the polling day the FSB took all the necessary security measures. "The leader of a Chechen grouping which has arrived in Moscow, and most of its members have been detained. Explosives, weapons and drugs have been confiscated from them," said an FSB spokesman.

He also announced that over the first half of the year, the FSB's Anti-Terrorist Center has confiscated 604 fire arms, 47 grenade launchers, 10 submachine-guns and 430 kilograms of explosives.

Military Issues

Russia: Lebed Comments on Army Reform, Fight Against Crime

LD0207233996 Moscow NTV in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past two weeks since he was appointed the secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Lebed has drawn up a quite smooth concept of national security. He told journalists about it on 2 July.

At a briefing the secretary of the Security Council circulated among journalists a very substantial package of proposals on how to ensure Russia's security. General Lebed began by speaking about army problems because the words Lebed and general are inseparable, as he put it, and in particular, by speaking about how discharged officers would adjust to civilian life since army reform

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envisages personnel cuts. For example, Lebed thinks that as far as ground troops are concerned it is better to have 15 battleworthy divisions rather than 100 divisions with inadequate staffing.

[Lebed] "It is necessary to re-examine the actual approach to the issue of bringing the army up to strength. I intend to propose to the president that he should announce that in 1997-98 we will abandon the practice of having units with staffing below the required level. Those units which are have only 25 or 30 percent of the required staffing level are to be turned into storage bases while the others are to be deployed."

[Unidentified correspondent] At the same time not only the military [word indistinct] should be used to bring troops up to strength.

[Lebed] "There is a problem, a very serious problem of chronic nonpayments, beginning with the money allowance and finishing with food, fuel and lubricants, clothing and other kit. With regard to this it has been suggested that a proposal put forward by managers of the military-industrial complex should be implemented, namely that the power-wielding ministries should be supplied directly at cost as per the state order in lieu of a company's tax payments and without the cost being included in sales. This will make it possible to avoid escalating tax increases. These escalating tax increases make goods for the armed forces twice as expensive at least. The army will benefit from this measure along with the military-industrial complex and the state as a whole, but it is not to the benefit of rogues."

[Correspondent] However, this is certainly not the only measure which in Lebed's view should help not just the army but the military-industrial complex, too.

[Lebed] "A number of serious, priority measures suggest themselves here. They include: the compilation of a long-term program of restructuring, tactical re-arming and retraining specialists; a reduction in the taxation on the enterprises in the military-industrial complex to stimulate their level of the production; repayment of their debts and the fully-financed implementation of alternative production programs for capacity that has become surplus in the military-industrial complex; the restoration of Russia's position on the arms market."

[Correspondent] From the problems of the military-industrial complex the general unexpectedly switched to the ecology.

[Lebed] "About 20 million Russian live in ecological disaster zones and about 20 percent of the population live in ecological conditions that are on the whole unfavorable. This gives rise to genetic mutations, sick children, barren women, new forms of cancer. And all this is a question of security too."

[Correspondent] Lebed considers social and economic problems, as faced by Russia in the transition to a market economy, to be one of the chief dangers to the security of the country.

[Lebed] "The absence of an economic strategy and a rational system for state regulation of the economy remains a principal danger to national security. In addition to this we can see the enormous budget deficit. The country's entire finances are under threat today. A very serious banking crisis has also developed. Whoever wins the election will have to solve these problems."

[Correspondent] Lebed did not omit to turn his attention either to 1,000-year-old problem of corruption or to the recently emerged threat to Russians' minds.

[Lebed] "And these technologies are being tried and tested not only by special services but also by major advertisement companies which are developing and implementing ever more efficient methods affecting people's mind and subconsciousness. Through these technologies ideas which are fundamentally unsuitable for Russia's development are being instilled in mass consciousness as models for imitation. And this may hamper Russia in implementing its national idea of development. And this is a very serious issue of national security."

[Correspondent] Setting out measures for combating crime Lebed stated his intention to toughen up the criminal code.

[Lebed] "Criminal liability for failing to observe any contractual obligations should be introduced. Punishment should be meted out for cumulative offenses, rejecting the currently used method when a greater crime absorbs a smaller crime. Special courts should deal with specially grave crimes. Harsher punishments should be given to members of organized crime and any kind of amnesty should be forbidden for them. Corruption should be made part of the section covering crimes against the state, and punishment should be stepped up for bribe-takers and bribe-givers. And if an official identified as a persistent bribe-taker he should be regarded as an especially dangerous state criminal."

[Correspondent] In order to fight such crimes as terrorism, smuggling and drug trafficking the secretary of the Security Council suggests that visa and passport regimes be made stricter and not only for individual citizens but for whole states.

[Lebed] "States should be qualified depending on their friendliness toward Russia. The visa regime should be

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made stricter and for residents of these states a special economic and political status of their stay in Russia should be introduced."

[Correspondent] Lebed does not rule out reply measures from not very friendly states.

[Lebed] "More than 40 percent of the country's food market is today in the hands of exporters [as heard]. If tomorrow somebody dislikes our behavior, our oxygen will be cut off and the country will face the problem of famine."

[Correspondent] That is why he sees agricultural reforms as falling within the Security Council's competence.

Lebed's plans look Napoleon-like indeed. Well, Napoleon implemented many of his plans.

[Lebed] "I intend to solve the country's problems from the point of view of its security in all its aspects. That is why new documents have been prepared and new principles and approaches have been formulated and I believe that in the near future the president will approve this package of documents and sign relevant edicts. And we will get down to business."

Russia: Lebed Suggests Reorganizing Land Force

LD0207122996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Russian Security Council Secretary General Aleksandr Lebed believes the Russian land force must be reformed in order to raise its combat capability. In an interview with Interfax he spoke for reducing the number of formations.

"Instead of 100 understaffed divisions it is better to have 15 fully staffed and capable ones," Lebed said.

In his opinion the new structure should imply three levels: an airborne force, including landing troops and specially trained general purpose units, at the first level; fully staffed general infantry and tank formations with due armaments and materiel at the second basic level; bases, storage facilities and logistical structures at the third.

"Small mobile fists [as received] can resolve all problems," the general said.

In his opinion implementation of the idea may prevent situations similar to that in Chechnya where elite marine units had to be transferred from the Northern and Pacific Fleets due to the shortage of capable and fully staffed formations in the land force.

Russia: Acting Defense Minister Holds Meetings on Military Reform

LD0207121496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — Russia's acting Defense Minister Mikhail Kolesnikov and First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin conducted a series of conferences on issues connected with military reform and military development, a source in the military establishment told Interfax on Tuesday.

The consultations resulted in "drafting several versions of ways to develop Russia's armed forces," the source said. The drafts reflect "the most probable conflicts and crises, and ways to use the armed forces depending on the geopolitical tasks set by the country's leadership and on the level the army is financed," he added.

According to the source, the military reform provides for considerable changes in the system of forming the armed forces and training officers. "It focuses on creating a competent nucleus of multifunctional units and groups," the military said.

Increasing importance will be attached to electronic warfare, toxic weapons and nuclear deterrent forces, the source said.

The military reform will be carried out to a considerable extent under the cover of Russia's "nuclear umbrella," he said.

The leaders of structural units from the Defense Ministry, General Staff and military academies, as well as independent experts, were involved in working out several versions of ways to develop Russia's armed forces, the source said.

Russia: Army Leaders 'Demoralized,' Awaiting Change

MM0207103796 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 96 p 2

[Article by Igor Chernyak: "Generals Will Be Fired in Platoons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a standing joke at the Defense Ministry on the eve of the election. The president asks military leaders: "I have fired Grachev; but what if it were suddenly necessary to fire on the White House: Which of you would dare?" The answer is: "There is such a man, Boris Nikolayevich, and you know who he is...."

It is a joke, of course. But the fact is that Lebed is now seen by the Defense Ministry as a kind of idol,

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a god bringing hope. People believe in him. It seems as though there will soon be a line of people wanting to give him a list of the injustices and illegalities committed by senior Defense Ministry officers and generals. The Defense Ministry computer network has started working for Lebed — dozens of enthusiasts are storing data on who stole what, when, where, and how much, who grabbed an apartment with Defense Ministry money, who privatized a dacha, who "pushed through" a consignment of weapons, and so forth.

So the rumors about the 70 generals due to be fired after 3 July are not groundless. The arithmetic is not complicated — under Grachev top Defense Ministry officials privatized in the region of 300 official dachas, and illegally bought dozens of apartments in the most prestigious parts of Moscow using Defense Ministry money. According to rough calculations, Grachev "protected" around 30 people from criminal proceedings. In this connection the name of General Panichev, the chief military prosecutor — dubbed "Grachev's poodle" in the Defense Ministry — is cropping up more and more frequently. "Under Panichev the Main Military Prosecutor's Office turned into a cheap whore, and only fundamental measures can extricate it from the mire," a Defense Ministry officer told me.

There are a few other aspects to the atmosphere at the military department today. The situation on the fifth floor — Grachev's floor — is funereal, quiet, and mournful. The former minister comes in from time to time for papers. Yelena Agapova, Grachev's loyal comrade-in-arms, has exclusive use of a dacha: The threat of criminal action is very great, and there are therefore two solutions — either a rapid sale or a transfer [pereoformleniye] to subordinates. Following Lebed's statements that generals' dachas need to be investigated, the same problems have arisen with other Grachev military leaders. Contemplating this universal concern, many military department officers have even forgotten about their pay, which, despite all the president's orders, is still being delayed by the Defense Ministry central apparatus. But if you give the lady disbursement officer at the Defense Ministry Finance Department a bottle of French perfume or a simple bribe, you can hope to be paid on time.

There have been varying reactions at the Defense Ministry to the recent resignation of seven generals. Nobody disputes the fact that Lebed's strategic line is right: A purge of the ministry's central apparatus is long overdue, and the threat made by the former minister that his departure would spell the end for all commanders in chief is not taken seriously by anyone. The statements about the dismissed seven boil down to saying "they are being treated the way they treated people themselves." Nonetheless, people at the Defense Ministry are more decorous: While agreeing that the generals were dismissed for "what they did," Lebed's mistake is seen as being that he has not explained to everyone who was dismissed for what. Such action is being compared with the high-handedness of Stalin and Khrushchev.

People here are saying that another two Lebed "blunders" have been his statements about Boris Gromov. You should not refer in such terms to a general who has operations in Afghanistan such as Khowst and "Mainline" to his credit. Second, the new Security Council secretary has not been able to keep his word — "the defense minister will be appointed Monday or Tuesday." News summaries on those two days were eagerly monitored on submarines and in the remotest garrisons, and the Army remembered that deception — not the first, but from its favorite son.

People who are more or less close to the Defense Ministry are asking why after the first purge General G. Ivanov — one of Grachev's closest comrades-in-arms and his adviser on military policy and reform, who had seemingly made a mess of everything he could make a mess of — had survived. According to Defense Ministry sources, the explanation is simple: At the crucial moment Gen. Ivanov and all the information he had at his disposal sided with Lebed, rushing into the embrace of his subordinate Colonel Denisov, who had been the out-of-favor general's secret eyes and ears at the Defense Ministry. As a result, Denisov became deputy secretary of the Security Council, and Ivanov became coordinator of president's election campaign at the Defense Ministry. It is all so cozy that it makes you sick.

It is worth noting that P. Grachev has behaved very properly in this situation. According to information from Defense Ministry sources, following his resignation he retired to one of his dachas in the Moscow area and refused point-blank to talk even to Boris Yeltsin before 3 July. His "second wife," as the press had dubbed the defense minister's former press secretary Yelena Agapova, was not seen at the dacha.

All the people I spoke to rejected out of hand the gossip about possible Army participation in another State Committee for the State of Emergency. "The Defense Ministry is currently routed and demoralized. Acting Defense Minister Kolesnikov is worn-out, confused, and discredited — he has no support among the troops. We are waiting for a new leader," a General Staff officer told me.

Who will the defense minister be? That is currently one of the most interesting questions facing people in

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uniform today (and there are several million of them in Russia) — on a par with the presidential election.

According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA information, the most powerful factions in the country are currently scrambling for the post. The names of Generals Kobets and Gromov, and the civilian Kokoshin are being put forward.... They are all professionals — there is no argument about that. But for some reason moral and ethical qualities have been forgotten of late. When these are taken into account there are four realistic candidates for defense minister — Generals Igor Rodionov, Vladimir Semenov, Andrey Nikolayev, and Valeriy Mironov. The success of just one of them will only benefit Russia.

Russia: Figures on Defense Conversion Released

LD0207125596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — About 700 defense plants are involved in the process of converting military production in Russia, a source in the National Statistics Committee told Interfax. In the first quarter of this year their output fell by 20 percent as compared with January-March last year. In Russian industries as a whole the decline made up only 4 percent.

According to the source, cuts in the production of both military and civilian products were noted at one in two conversion plants. In the meantime increases in the output of civilian products were observed at over one-quarter of the plants.

The share of civilian products in the total output of more than one half of conversion enterprises surpassed 80 percent; one in five plants yielded only civilian products.

About one-quarter of the items produced by the sector of Russia's military-industrial complex involved in conversion were exported, military products making up over 40 percent of such exports.

As compared with the first quarter of last year, the staff of conversion plants was cut by 13 percent in both military and civilian production. In January-March 118,000 persons were dismissed from military production, but one half of them were subsequently granted jobs. The rest, almost 52,000 people, left their plants.

Two-thirds of the total volume of money spent on conversion came from the plants' own funds, 14 percent from the federal budget and 11 percent from credits granted by banks.

Russia: Army Topographical Institute's Work Profiled

MM0307103396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Poroskov under the "We Report for the First Time" rubric: "The Research Institute That Peers In at the Pentagon's Window"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This institute is unique, among other things, because by virtue of its special nature it embraces all branches of the Armed Forces and categories of troops, since it works in the interests of them all. After all, without topogeodesic support the troops and their weapons and combat control systems would simply be blind. A cruise missile, for instance, whether ship-based or "ground"-based, makes its way around the contours of the locality and goes in, as the experts say, "through the window" solely because the flight route is incorporated in its guidance system. And high-precision weapons in general are so called because of their knowledge of the "destination" of the strike thanks to the military topographers.

Created 60 years ago, the research institute produced a prototype geodesic range-only radar a year later, and soon after that a mobile stereophotogrammetry unit for artillery reconnaissance divisions, and tested a prototype traveling printing machine for map production. Even then V.I. Korablev was making his presence felt; he was later to become the initiator and scientific leader of work on the creation of the country's first space topographical system and methods for the creation of topographical maps of inaccessible territories from space photography materials.

In the first days of the Great Patriotic War some of the institute's officers were sent to the front: We entered the war without a map of the European part of the country east of the Pulkovo meridian. The institute created mobile cartographic systems and developed accelerated methods of issuing maps and providing the basis for coordinates for artillery and methods of aerial photo-topographic filming of inaccessible areas. Its brainchilds included, for instance, the railroad train lithograph and the hectograph, making it possible quickly to print the operational situation onto maps. The troops needed so-called artillery and tank maps, maps of water boundaries, and reconnaissance maps. And the institute provided them. With the participation of officers of the Main Intelligence Directorate, about 20 military-geographic reports, manuals, and special summaries were compiled for the General Staff during the war years. This experience was reflected in the first Manual on Topographical Support for Troops' Combat Operations, published in 1953.

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In the postwar years the military topographers created a whole string of special instruments, among them the country's first phototachymeter, the Velichko-Vasilyev; and the Romanovskiy stereoscopic projector, which was deemed a great achievement both in our country and abroad.

With the formation of the Strategic Missile Forces in 1957, the institute took part in the development of space geodesic and topographical systems and ground observation equipment. In 1964 the institute's scientists, for the first time in our country created an automated cartographic system in no way inferior to foreign equivalents such as the Oxford system. In the seventies a new task emerged — providing digital cartographic information on the terrain for new missile systems. Here the Topographical Service Research Institute was the designer of technology for obtaining digital information.

The institute conducted work to assess the resistance of various types of structures to the effects of the shock wave from powerful explosions, provided astronomical and geodesic support for unique special facilities, took part in geodesic operations on the sixth continent and research in deriving the parameters of the Earth, and carried out a large volume of work on cartographic support for automated guidance and navigation systems. But even today one area of its work is still the traditional maps — based on paper; research is constantly under way to increase their reliability and...life span. For instance, the maps supplied to the troops in Chechnya will survive being folded up to 14,000 times.

Our idea of the topographers' job — one feeds the mosquitoes in the taiga, studying the terrain, while another, back at the factory, draws a map with fine pencils — is becoming a thing of the past. Alongside the traditional maps, increasing use is being made of digital and electronic maps. Their most important advantage, as Doctor of Technical Sciences Aleksandr Martynenko, leading scientific staffer at the institute, explained, is the ability to present reliable information on any territory quickly, in real time, with the ability to change the scale of depiction. You can call up any sector of terrain on screen, enlarge it, have a "bird's eye view" of the terrain, having established the coordinates of the required target or sector of forests and lakes, and view the contours.

And this does not only apply to places where the topographer has been with his theodolite.... It need hardly be said how important this is for a commanding officer working out an operational plan. In fact, the research institute is responsible for the system of coordinates for the Armed Forces as a whole. All our systems work in relation to this — missile, aviation, navigation.... The institute also develops the technology and technical systems for the Topographical Service.

This formerly closed Russian Federation Defense Ministry research institute, headed by Doctor of Technical Sciences Major General Valeriy Yelyushkin, is becoming well known in our country and abroad. Recent successes include the creation of a worldwide system of coordinates in which the relative position of points separated by thousands of kilometers can be determined to an accuracy of 10-20 cm. This requires the use of, for instance, the observation equipment of the GLONASS and NAVSTAR satellite navigation systems. The development of original methods and technologies for the high-precision processing of aerospace photographs has created prospects for entering the domestic and foreign markets and is being used for the creation of geoinformation systems, the projection of three-dimensional models of terrain, the creation and updating of topographical maps, city plans, digital models of terrain and electronic maps, and the formation of data banks in the interests, first and foremost, of the country's defense.

All these many tasks are only within the powers of a collective with mighty intellectual and scientific potential. The institute has 10 doctors and more than 90 candidates of scientists, it has world-famous scientists, and there is postgraduate education and a specialized scientific council for the defense of candidates' dissertations, which in the past 20 years has given more than 100 scientists their tickets into science. In 1981 Doctor of Technical Sciences Nikolay Voronkov was awarded the State Prize for developing a set of geodesic instruments. In 1984 the institute was awarded the Order of the Labor Red Banner for resolving problems of information support for modern weapons system, and Doctor of Technical Sciences Yevgeniy Khalugin won the State Prize and Sergey Knorozov the Lenin Prize. Aleksandr Martynenko not only "thought up" a system of electronic maps, but, as a member of the international commission on the program for the exchange of cartographic information, ensured recognition of the system at worldwide level. Not so long ago the institute developed specifications for electronic maps as good as the best specifications in the world.

Women work at the research institute too, about 100 of them. For instance, cartographers Candidates of Technical Sciences Anastasiya Zuyeva and Nina Morokina and star-photography specialist Tatyana Budylova. The almost 100 electronic maps prepared for the General Staff are partly their work too. The institute's future is with its young staffers. The winners in the competition for the best work for the research institute's 60th anniversary in June of this year were Gennadiy Barabin, Vladimir Maksimov, Nikolay Konon, Igor Sidorov, Aleksandr

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Serdyukov, and Vasiliy Skripnyuk. And there are plenty of people for them to model their careers on — the veteran Doctors of Technical Sciences Aleksey Zhivichin, Aleksandr Maslennikov, and Vitaliy Pogorelov, Candidates of Technical Sciences Vladimir Leontyev, Viktor Galazin, Shamil Diveyev....

Like all military organizations, the institute has significantly reduced its number of staffers — by 40 percent in recent years. And the problems here are the same as in ordinary military units: Last year the institute was allocated only just over half the sum required for scientific research. But nonetheless people are eager to come here — the work is interesting, and wages have never once been delayed. The secret is simple: The institute develops unique technologies and products not only for the Armed Forces, but also for dual use, translating its programs into the language of the civilian consumer.

The sphere of operation of the topographical research institute in the military field runs from strategic to local tactical tasks. In most cases on the basis of space photographs. Each photograph must be decoded with the help of photogrammetrical and other instruments. These, incidentally, are developed right here. This year 12 such instruments have entered production. On their own initiative, the institute's staffers have developed a new system for creating digital maps costing a fraction of what the old system cost. The system has been nominated for a State Prize. The "insides" of topogeodesic satellites — the idea for the instrument, its basis and shape — are also born here at this institute.

Incidentally, the United States has a similar institute, but approximately four times the size. And they are paid more there. But if the Americans are ahead of our people in any way, it is only in terms of the consumers' equipment — instruments which in conjunction with navigation systems make it possible to determine the whereabouts of a target. But the lag is not very great and not insuperable. Unlike many other Russian scientific firms, the Topographical Service Research Institute not only puts forward and substantiates ideas, but also carries out experimental and design work on problems of cartographic support for weapons systems and troop management systems. As Lieutenant General Vitaliy Khvostov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed forces Topographical Service, said, the past six decades have demonstrated the need for the institute. Tomorrow it will still be peering in at the Pentagon's "window."

Federal Assembly

Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 23-29 Jun

96P50104

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Federal Law No. 72 Of 15 June On Societies Of Home Owners. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jun 96 pp 3-4) (12000)

Federal Law No. 79 Of 20 June On Deadlines For Submission And Structure Of Draft Federal Laws On Implementation Of Federal Budget. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 6) (220)

Federal Law No. 80, Signed By Yeltsin And Dated 20 June, Amending Federal Law On Central Bank Of Russia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 1) (200) (Text) (964EI713)

Federal Law No. 81 Of 20 June On State Regulation In Sphere Of Extraction And Use Of Coal, And On Distinctive Features Of Social Protection Of Workers In Coal Industry Organizations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 4) (5000)

RF Federal Law No. 82 Of 20 June On Changes To Federal Law On 1996 Budget Of 5 June 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 6) (300) (Text)

Yeltsin 21 June Edict No. 969 On Additional Measures To Ensure Receipt Of Taxes And Other Obligatory Payments Into Budget. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (250) (Text)

RF Federal Law No. 83 Of 21 June On Changes And Additions To Law On Income Tax Levied On Physical Persons. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (550)

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SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Chernomyrdin 23 April Government Directive No. 683-r Accepting Defense Ministry's And Other Bodies' Proposal For Talks On Signing Agreement Between U.S. And Russian Defense Ministries On Cooperation In Development Of Seismic Station For Monitoring Nuclear Weapons Testing Plus Commentary By S. Ptichkin. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 6) (100/600) (Text)

Government 17 May Directive No. 794 Accepting Project For Shore Protection On Black And Azov Seas Against Dangerous Natural Processes, Plus Afterword By A. Sharov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (150/600)

Government 11 June Decree No. 686 On Holding Ecological Hazard Protection Days. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (200)

Government 11 June Decree No. 698 Approving Statute (Not Published) On Procedure For Conducting State Ecological Expert Appraisals Plus Commentary By T. Smolyakova. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (150/450)

RF Federal Law No. 74 Of 17 June On Ethno-Cultural Autonomy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 3) (5500)

Presidential Edict No. 932 Of 18 June On National Plan For Action For Improving Situation Of Women And Enhancing Their Role In Society Up To Year 2000. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 6) (400)

Yeltsin 19 June Edict No. 938 Renaming Main Protection Directorate. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 1) (100) (Text)

Presidential 19 June Edict No. 944 On General Designers For Most Important Fields In Development Of Weapons Systems And Military Hardware. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 5) (150) (Text)

Government 20 June Decree No. 708 Declaring 3 July Public Holiday, Rearranging Working Days And Days Off In November And December. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 p 1) (200) (Text)

Presidential 25 June Edict No. 985 On Withdrawal Of Forces And Equipment Making Up Temporary Combined Forces Fulfilling Tasks Of Disarming All Illegal Armed Formation On Territory Of Chechen Republic. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 1) (350) (Text)

Yeltsin 25 June Edict No. 989 Setting Up Political Consultative Council, Appointing Ivan Rybkin Its Chairman, Approving Its Statute (Not Published), Plus Unattributed 'Our Commentary' Article. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 3) (400/500) (Text)

Final Part Of Criminal Code. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jun 96 pp 4-6) (14000)

Regional Affairs

Russia: Moscow Operation Yields 'Rich' Catch of Illegal Arms

MM0307095096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Petrov: "'Arsenal' Uncovers Arsenals. Forces of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Main Administration Rayon Administrations for Organized Crime Have Conducted a Special Operation in the Capital. Against Crime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The purpose of the operation codenamed Arsenal, which lasted exactly 24 hours, was to stabilize and improve the operational situation in the city. The task of RUOP [Rayon Administrations for Organized Crime] staffers included actively seeking and confiscating weapons, ammunition, and explosives and preventing and clearing up crimes connected with their use.

The "catch" proved traditionally rich. Twelve firearms (including 10 rifles), two improvised guns, 853 rounds of ammunition, and eight grenades were discovered and confiscated in the course of checks at 33 installations where weapons were presumed to be kept, motor vehicles, and citizens. The total weight of the explosives was 1,782 kg. There is no denying that the confiscated arsenal is impressive, taking into account the potential of such a quantity of explosives. Something else is also disconcerting. A considerable proportion of the weapons (already loaded with cartridges and ready to fire, incidentally) was confiscated from persons with no permanent employment, in the age range 25-35 years, with previous convictions and without a Moscow residence permit. Another group of holders are mainly Caucasians who have come from Azerbaijan, Chechnya, and Armenia. Incidentally, these also have not been registered in the city as required. As a result, this probably attests to just one thing: The ongoing influx of certain categories of "guests" into the capital and, for

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the time being, to all appearances, far from effective measures to combat this phenomenon.

Those arrested included people whose position and specialty would appear to tally in no way with RUOP charge sheets. Thus, a lecturer at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, born in 1952, was detained in the "Malaya Kosmicheskaya Akademiya" Youth Center. An AKSU-74 assault rifle and 119 cartridges for it were discovered and confiscated from him. A ChZyet pistol was taken from the general director of the "Demos-Tsentr" Limited Liability Company. Nevertheless, such cases are nothing new to staffers of law enforcement organs. With the growth in crime, according to them, more and more people are getting drawn into criminal circles for the most inconceivable, at first sight, reasons.

In short, the need for a resolute offensive against organized crime has once again been confirmed. Operation Arsenal, to judge from tough statements by individual politicians and the capital's leadership, could well be the first step on the path from words to deeds.

Russia: Chechen Body Calls Off 3 Jul Meeting With Russians

LD0207180896 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Defense Committee, the supreme military body of the Chechen armed opposition, has decided not to go to the meeting with the federal delegation in the village of Novyye Atagi scheduled for tomorrow, according to Movladi Udugov, minister of press and information in Yandarbiyev's government. He said the committee believe the talks are undesirable because the agreements signed in Moscow and Nazran are not being implemented. [passage omitted]

[Begin Udugov recording] Helicopter attacks are continuing. The Russian air force is continuing to attack mountain roads, while staging mock firing and mock attacks on populated areas, buildings and hamlets. In other words, the agreements are being violated. Therefore, in this connection the Chechen side is taking measures and action to draw the attention of the Russian leadership to the critical situation and is calling on the Russian leadehip to take action without delay to set the situation right before it completely goes out of control again. [end recording]

Russia: Moscow Bombing Victim Vedenkin Is Not Deputy's Aide

MM0207124696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial Office report: "Necessary Clarification"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 24 June the news agencies followed by the central television service carried a report on an explosion at the gates of Aleksey Vedenkin's dacha. The report said that Vedenkin holds the post of assistant to State Duma Deputy Pavel Burdukov. The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA news desk believed that this information would be of interest to readers and included it in that edition. After that the Russian State Duma Security Committee and V. Ilyukhin in particular informed us that Vedenkin is not assistant to the aforementioned deputy and never has been, and we in turn convey that information to our readers.

Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Credited With Arms Industry Success

MM0307114096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Valentin Rudenko: "Russian Military-Industrial Complex Perplexes Rivals Yet Again. Postscript to Eurosatory '96 (France) and IAS '96 (Indonesia) International Arms Exhibitions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, last week the Russian military-industrial complex made its debut at two representative arms shows simultaneously — the Eurosatory '96 international ground forces armaments exhibition (Paris) and the Indonesia Air Show [IAS] '96 (Jakarta). The first results show that the debut was very successful.

Literally on the eve of the opening of Eurosatory '96 and IAS '96 the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [SIPRI] published its latest "SIPRI Yearbook '96," listing the 30 leading conventional arms exporters in 1991-1995. Russia is second on the list — second only to the United States. It now has a 17-percent share of world arms exports. This is the highest indicator in the past four years.

At a time when there has been a considerable decline in volumes of arms sales around the world, we have substantially increased our military exports. Last year they came to 3.05 billion [figure as published] rubles. And that is "hard cash." The total volume of concluded contracts was in excess of $7 billion.

There are just five states in the world, including Russia, which are seriously developing weapons systems. These

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weapons are bought by around 200 countries. Hence it is clear why over the past few years we have attached such great importance to taking part in international arms shows. No better way of showing off your wares and looking at what others have to offer has yet been devised.

And we do have things to offer. More than 150 of the most modern ground-forces equipment and armaments were shown by the Russian military-industrial complex at Eurosatory '96. These included the S-300V and S-300PMU1 surface-to-air missile systems, the "Smerch" multiple rocket launcher system, the T-80U and T-80UK tanks, the BMP-2 and BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicles, the "Malyutka-M," "Metis-M," and "Konkurs-M" antitank missile systems, the "Krasnopol- M" and "Kitolov-2M" artillery systems, Kalashnikov AK-101 and AK-102 assault rifles using NATO ammunition, and other weapons.

Although, as is well known, contracts are very rarely concluded right at exhibitions, even in this respect Russia's defense workers did not come home from Paris empty-handed. Thus, the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company and the "Splav" GNPP [expansion unknown] on the one hand, and the French firm of Selerg [name as transliterated], which specializes in the production of engines for tactical missiles, on the other, signed a communique on the joint completion of planning work into the modernization of 122-mm rockets for the Russian PN-21 "Grad" multiple rocket launcher. By using this new Russo-French-developed engine and Selerg fuel, and by improving the rocket's parameters, its range has been increased to 36 km. At the same time, its precision has been improved. The firms have announced their readiness to supply the modernized rockets to countries operating the "Grad" system.

For well-known reasons agreements are not normally discussed at an exhibition, but we have learned from "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company Press Service officials that fruitful talks were held and corresponding documents signed with a number of other foreign firms as well.

It is worth noting that not only certain types of armaments and military hardware but the entire Russian exhibit as a whole received a high assessment at Eurosatory '96. The Russian exhibit was deemed to be the best-organized.

If anyone believes that only defense workers need the defense complex, they are making a very big mistake. All Russians need it. Just think about it — why does the West invest serious amounts of money in its military-industrial complex? Primarily because each $1 billion channeled into the arms trade allows them to maintain approximately an extra 50,000 jobs in the defense sector and 125,000 in related sectors.

Naturally, our rivals are seriously concerned that we are now not only regaining our traditional arms markets but are winning new ones, notably in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asian market is particularly promising. According to certain assessments, in the next five years the countries of that region — primarily Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, India, and Malaysia — intend to spend up to $80 billion on arms purchases.

We would note that Western countries have monopolized this market for many years. The half-billion [currency not specified] contract to supply a consignment of MiG-29 fighters to Malaysia effectively put an end to that monopoly. The IAS '96 air show has shown that there is great interest in the region not only in Russia's superb fighters (we demonstrated Sukhoi Design Bureau aircraft at IAS '96 - - the Su-27, Su-30, and Su-35), but also in the missiles produced by the Machine Building Science and Production Association (Reutov) and the "Vympel" Design Bureau (Moscow), the munitions produced by the "Pribor" GNPP, the latest Kilo-class submarines, the developments [razrabotki] of the "Rubin" Naval Equipment Central Design Bureau, and other armaments.

The active promotion of Russian armaments in the Asia-Pacific Region is leading to a new balance of power taking shape there, in which the United States will no longer play the decisive role. Incidentally, it is not only there that this is happening. We have achieved considerable success over the past few years in Latin American countries, which opens up good prospects for the Russian military-industrial complex. After all, with the reform and modernization of their armed forces the overwhelming majority of countries in the region intend to emphasize imports of armaments and military hardware. Our main trump card in the contest for this and, incidentally, other markets is the high quality of Russian armaments, their affordable prices, and our well-organized service.

Whereas previously the Soviet Union mainly earned a political profit from its arms shipments, today we are gaining a very tangible economic profit. Largely thanks to arms exports we have been able in the current very difficult economic situation to retain our ability to produce and develop [razrabatyvat] the most modern weapons systems.

We have repeatedly talked about the truly colossal work done by the Russian president and his staff, the government, the Ministry of the Defense Industry, the De-

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fense Ministry, the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, leading defense enterprises, and other state structures to create a system of military-technical cooperation. Today there is every reason to state that this system is already functioning effectively. And it would be very painful if in a rush of postelection reformations we were to start restructuring it and retailoring it for the umpteenth time. Whether Russian arms manufacturers would gain is anyone's guess, but our rivals would undoubtedly benefit.

Russia: Davydov: Chernomyrdin-Gore Commission To Boost Investment

LD0207170796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 2 (Interfax) — U.S. investments in the Russian economy will double or even triple as a result of the work done by the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission, Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Interfax Tuesday.

Davydov made this statement in the runup to a regular, seventh session of the U.S.-Russian commission for economic and technological cooperation in Moscow on July 15-16.

The commission, co-chaired by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and therefore widely known as the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission, was founded in 1993 via a decision by the U.S.-Russian summit in Vancouver, Davydov recalled.

The main objective of the commission is to solve the key issues of bilateral trade and economic relations at an intergovernmental level, Davydov said. "Thanks to the commission, solutions have been found to numerous problems that kept piling up in U.S.-Russian business relations," he said.

"As a result of the decisions made, the disastrously falling bilateral turnover rose in 1995 by about a quarter against the 1994 figure, reaching $7 billion," Davydov said. "Bilateral U.S.-Russian trade has doubled against 1992."

However, it is investment cooperation that should be the guideline for bilateral business cooperation, Davydov stressed.

"U.S. companies are more aware of the profitability of investing in Russia than others," Davydov said. "Americans take the lead among other foreign investors in the Russian economy."

According to various sources, "total U.S. investments in the Russian economy stand at $2 billion to $4 billion," Davydov said. "This is the highest figure in the rating list of foreign investors in Russia," he noted.

At the same time, he was convinced that "such amounts are a far cry from the actual capabilities of the two nations."

Davydov said that the Moscow session of the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission will focus precisely on boosting investment cooperation.

Russia: Bank Approves Move To Relax Ruble Export Rules

MM0307104596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Igor Maksimov under the "What Everyone Is Talking About" rubric: "I Will Also Be King with Rubles When Abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bank of Russia has approved the draft Statute "On the Procedure Governing the Export and Remittance of Russian Federation Currency from the Russian Federation and Its Import and Remittance to the Russian Federation," which is designed, after approval by the Finance Ministry and the Customs Committee, to replace the current joint document of those three departments adopted 6 October 1993.

Under the latter document the Central Bank itself and its territorial administrations are already empowered to import and export rubles. The new statute extends that right to authorized banks which obtain a Central Bank license for foreign currency transactions, which currently number more than 1,000. These Russian banks will be able to remove rubles from and transfer rubles to the correspondence accounts of nonindigenous banks and also transfer domestic currency to meet the needs of their own foreign branches. Similar opportunities are granted to the national banks of foreign states if they obtain the appropriate permission from the Bank of Russia.

Individuals are permitted to cross the border in possession of an amount of rubles not exceeding 500 times the minimum wage, which is equivalent to approximately 35 million rubles [R]. Admittedly, they are still forbidden to remit rubles.

The Central Bank considers that the new procedure will promote the revival of foreign economic activity. There is a need for rubles in a number of countries which have become a second home for our "shuttle" dealers (Poland, Turkey, and China), while exchange offices engaged in buying and selling Russian currency are already operating in Finland. CIS countries' banks are

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interested in buying rubles in exchange for their own national currency; stocks of rubles which need to be sold are also building up in neighboring countries. With the adoption of the new document these transactions will be substantially streamlined.

On the one hand, the draft statute introduces a more liberal procedure; on the other, it establishes control over the movement of rubles across the Russian Federation border. As all the transactions will be carried out through commercial banks, the Central Bank intends to obtain a monthly report from them and also obtain information from the customs service according to the system which operates today with regard to the import and export of foreign currency.

As far as individuals are concerned, Vladimir Smirnov, deputy chief of the Central Bank's Main Currency Regulation and Control Administration, reported that the Bank of Russia is considering how to restrict the export of foreign currency. It is now possible to convey any sum, even millions of dollars, without any obstacle — such cases have been encountered in customs practice.

At the same time the new statute, together with recent decisions liberalizing the procedure governing nonresidents' ruble accounts, are to work toward achieving the ruble's convertibility in current transactions. The Bank of Russia has worked out a plan of subsequent moves, which are determined by Russia's adherence to Article 8 of the IMF Charter; however, Vladimir Smirnov did not communicate the details, as the document has not yet been endorsed - - it is planned to do this by 1 July.

Russia: Federation Council Roundtable on Land Ownership Viewed

MM0207145296 Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Shchurov: "Land Must Be 'Within the Law'; Can Peasants Buy It, Sell It, or Mortgage It?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma adopted the Russian Land Code a month ago. This document, so long awaited by the peasantry, was immediately subjected to harsh criticism by reformers — because it bans the mortgaging of land and the buying and selling of agricultural land. So, before accepting or rejecting the code, the Federation Council gathered together supporters and opponents of private ownership for a roundtable discussion. Opening the session, Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev urged deputies, members of the government, and scientists to find a way to reach agreement on this very momentous land issue.

We should remind you that the debate over whether land should be the object of buying and selling has been going on for six years. Those who favor a market economy contend that reforms are impossible without an agricultural land market, whereas the Communists and others like them are frightening people with the prospect of the rich buying up peasant land. While the representatives of power were arguing amongst themselves, a new Constitution was adopted, which abolished the previous Land Code. Essentially, the "mother of all wealth" now finds itself outside the law. There are no legal norms capable of protecting the fertility of the soil, and land is deteriorating: One-third of Russia's arable land is subject to erosion, and a further one-third has become salinized and waterlogged. Meanwhile, the rich are growing fat on the black market: In the Moscow region alone, vast tracts of arable land are being bought for development by "new Russians." "This has happened because there is no legal land turnover," Viktor Khlystun, head of the Ministry of Agriculture, said. "Criminal deals are easily made in a legal vacuum, when state bodies have no law to enable them to channel the movement of land in a direction society can control."

So what is to be done? Yegor Stroyev's first proposal was to terminate the discussion on ownership: It is enshrined as a norm in the Constitution and Russia already has 50 million land owners. But, having said "a," we must also say "b": Ownership of land assumes turnover of land — buying, selling, mortgaging.... This, to quote one of the speakers, is where "we must all tread carefully." That is, we must work on the basis of the principle: Do peasants need a land market and, if so, in what form? Or even: Can they manage without a land market?

It seems they cannot. Last year, only 800 billion rubles from the budget were spent on investments in agriculture; the treasury does not have the money for more and none is foreseen. Collective farms and private farmers are cutting back on production as a result: Today almost half of all produce is imported from abroad. Without money, the agro-industrial complex is doomed: This money can only come from commercial structures and only with land as security, as peasants have nothing else to offer. This much was finally agreed, incidentally, by both right-wing and left-wing participants in the roundtable discussion. The only difference is that, whereas the former are convinced the state would be able to regulate a land market, the latter believe it would get out of control and land would end up in the hands of the rich.

We must be honest and admit that both scenarios are perfectly possible. There are a mass of examples in the West of how this market benefits the interests of society as a whole: Taxes from land turnover alone account for

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as much as 50 percent of local budget revenue. Banks can have their rights restricted: For example, they can be forced to transfer land confiscated from debtors to more assiduous owners. You can impose a five-year moratorium on the sale of agricultural land for new owners and offer the right to land use as security, rather than land itself. Finally, you can make land speculation a criminal offense. If we had norms like these in Russia, there would probably be no arguments about a land market. In any case, representatives of the State Duma said they are prepared to compromise and work together with representatives of the Federation Council in a conciliation commission to sanction a version of the code that will legalize a land market and, at the same time, protect land from unscrupulous people.

After the session, I asked Viktor Khlystun whether it could take months or even years to reconcile the various viewpoints. "We do not have time for arguments — we cannot leave land 'outside the law' any longer," the minister replied. "It should only take two weeks to answer all questions and finally adopt the Land Code."

But the problem is also not knowing what is going to happen in two weeks, that is, after the election of a new president. The question of when and in what form the code will be adopted depends on the outcome of the elections. Because land in Russia has always been not so much a question of economics as of big politics.

Stop Press: Yesterday the Federation Council rejected the Land Code and instructed a conciliation commission to finalize the document.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Barter Deal To Purchase Iraqi Oil Detailed

WS0307074896 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0635 GMT 3 Jul 96

["News Service"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the INFOBANK agency had reported on July 1, the Ukrainian delegation headed by Yevhen Dovzhko, head of the State Committee on oil/gas industry, began talks July 1 in Baghdad with Iraqi officials on the supply of oil to Ukraine. According to the INFOBANK's sources in the State Committee, 2 million tons of oil will be imported for barter. Ukraine is to export to Iraq the amount of food products worth the cost of oil.

The oil will be pumped from Iraq to the Turkish oil terminal in Iskenderun. Then it will be delivered through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits to the Ukrainian oil terminal in Odessa, whose capacity now is 4 million tons of oil a year.

State Committee official, who preferred to stay unidentified, said the plans for expanding Ukraine's oil imports from the Persian Gulf countries are ready. Ukraine will be able to do away with its dependence on Russian oil supplies once the Ceihan-Samsun (Turkey) and Odessa-Brody (Ukraine) oil pipe-lines and Odessa oil terminal are completed. The oil will be imported from Iraq, Iran and the Persian Gulf monarchies. The project is a lucrative deal for all participants. As a result, Ukraine will decrease its dependence on Russia, which is its sole supplier so far. Persian Gulf exporters will get a much shorter route for their oil to Europe and Turkey's budget will earn at least $400 million in revenues from transit of oil.

Ukraine: Russians To Vote at 23 Polling Stations in Ukraine

LD0207162496 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-three polling stations will open in Ukraine on 3 July to enable visiting and resident Russian citizens to vote in their country's presidential election.

The stations will open in Kiev, Kharkov, Simferopol, Sevastopol, Lvov, Odessa, Feodosiya, and Yalta, and at the Black Sea Fleet.

Ukraine: Defense Official To Inspect Ukrainian Forces in FRY

WS0307085696 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0106 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 2. First Deputy Defense Minister Col. Gen. Ivan Bizhan left Tuesday [2 July] for former Yugoslavia, the ministry's press service reported. Bizhan is scheduled to visit the 240th detached special battalion within IFOR forces in Sarajevo as well as inspect 17th and 8th helicopter squadrons and a detached tank company of the Ukrainian armed forces, which execute their tasks under mandate of the United Nations Organizations Transition Administration in Eastern Slavonia.

Bizhan is also scheduled to meet with the commander of the U.N. mission in Eastern Slavonia, Gen. Skubs of Belgium, and the commander of the French division, which includes the Ukrainian 240th battalion.

National Affairs

Ukraine: MPs Must Decide by 4 Jul Between Parliament, Government

LD0207211496 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1540 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — Ukrainian deputies have discussed and adopted a resolution, submitted by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, called: "On the issue of stripping Ukrainian people's deputies, who have not started working permanently in the Ukrainian Supreme Council, of their mandates." The resolution was adopted by 239 deputies.

The Supreme Council resolves:

1. To propose that Ukrainian people's deputies, who have not started working permanently in the Supreme Council, should submit a declaration by 4 July 1996, giving up their deputies' mandates, or a declaration to the effect that they will start working in the Ukrainian Supreme Council on a permanent basis;

2. To charge the Supreme Council chairman, within a month, with asking the courts to suspend, ahead of time, those people's deputies who have not abided by Point 1 of this resolution;

3. To propose that the president should provide information, by 5 July 1996, concerning those people's deputies who have been appointed to posts in the executive bodies of power by the president, and who have expressed a willingness to continue working in their posts;

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4 To charge the Supreme Council Commission for Legal Policy and Court and Legal Reform with submitting for the Supreme Council's consideration, from 3 July 1996, the draft law "On making changes and additions to the Civil Code of Ukraine on the procedure for considering in the courts the request to suspend, ahead of time, Ukrainian people's deputies' mandates in the event that they ignore the requirement concerning the incompatibility of holding a deputy's mandate with other types of activity." Two hundred and thirty nine deputies voted in favor of this resolution.

Ukraine: Supreme Council Presidium Dissolved

WS0307085096 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0645 GMT 3 Jul 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] — The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's [Supreme Council's] Presidium has been dissolved in accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution. The important role of preparing the Verkhovna Rada's agenda will now be assumed by parliamentary committees. In accordance with this change, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksandr Moroz, began his working day on July 1 by meeting with the chairpersons of parliamentary standing committees and leaders of parliamentary groups and fractions to discuss issues involving the parliament's activities. A number of draft laws were discussed at the meeting and some of them were recommended for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada. They include the draft Ukrainian law on amendments to article 2 of the March 17, 1993 Cabinet of Ministers decree "On Taxation of Industries," the draft law on introduction of amendments in article 15 of the Ukrainian law "On Social Welfare of Military Servicemen and their Families," and the draft law on introduction of amendments to Ukrainian Criminal Code. The agendas of the Verkhovna Rada's activities in the July 2-5 period were also discussed.

Ukraine: Deputy: Lazarenko Has Little Support in Parliament

WS0307085896 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0106 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 1. Parliament isn't happy with Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko and wants more control over government, according to Rada [parliament] Deputy Sergiy Teryokhin, a member of the Reforms faction.

"If Parliament was to approve the Prime Ministers nomination today, Premier Pavlo Lazarenko would not get support" said Teryokhin.

Teryokhin said leftists in Parliament wouldnt support him because of he heads a government with Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, Shpek and Yekhanurov in it, while the right would not support him since they are disappointed with recent initiatives increasing administrative pressure on countrys economy and with his style of controlling the government.

Parliament changed the Constitution to reduce the term for the current government from six to three months, according to Teryokhin.

Teryokhin said Lazarenko could win support of part of the deputies in the next quarter if he starts speedy structural changes and proves himself a supporter of the presidential program. He contended Lazarenko is deviating, such as the pressure on banks to make loans to unprofitable enterprises as deviation, and introducing different privatization rules for big and medium enterprises.

Ukraine: Communists Claim Parliament Rigged Constitution Vote

LD0207125296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Petro Symonenko, leader of the Ukrainian parliament's Communist faction, told deputies today that his party believes the new constitution has no legitimacy. He said the faction discovered that more than 30 people, including members of the Communist Party Central Committee, whom records showed as voting in favor of the constitution, were in fact absent from the proceedings. It was a provocation against the Communist Party, he declared.

Symonenko accused Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma of provoking conflict between the parliament and the executive yet again and making the Supreme Council force the adoption of the constitution. He said "pressure was put on deputies" on the night of 27-28 June. "This degrades not only members of parliament, but the entire Ukrainian people," Symonenko said.

He announced that the Communist faction has drawn up an appeal to President Kuchma saying that none of the deputies deserves a top state award [for passing the constitution].

Ukraine: Donbass Mines Strike Over Nonreceipt of Back Pay

LD0307095596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0825 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DONETSK, July 3 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Several mines of Donbass went on strike

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early this morning to support the demand of the Independent Miners' Trade Union on immediate payment of the salary debt.

Three mines of the Krasnoarmeyskugol interregional mining enterprise are idle, deputy head of the Krasnoarmeyskugol Aleksandr Abramov told Interfax-Ukraine.

All the 10 mines of the Pervomayskugol enterprise, the Lugansk region, are on strike as well, and Pervomaysk miners are holding a rally on Pervomaysk central square.

Miners from several striking mines of Donetsk have blocked a number of Donetsk streets.

A city rally of miners is scheduled for July 8 in Yenakiyevo to demand payment of the salary debt.

The main demand of the trade union is to pay the salary debt, Chairman of the Ukrainian Independent Miners' Trade Union Mikhail Volynets told Interfax-Ukraine. "There have been no real negotiations with the trade unions, it was just a game," he said.

Some 45 mines will join the strike by the time the second shift comes to work on July 3, said Volynets.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Calls For Nuclear Free Zone in Central Europe

LD0307103396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1002 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 3 (Interfax-West) — Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka calls on "all advocates of NATO's advance to the east" to spend the funds intended for what according to him is a dangerous and costly venture, on humanitarian aid for the survivors of the Chernobyl disaster and the elimination of its effects.

Speaking at today's wreath-laying ceremony at the Eternal Flame on Victory Square in Minsk for the 52nd anniversary of the city's liberation from German Nazis, Lukashenka proposed turning Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic countries included, into a nuclear free region.

"As the proposal's author, Belarus is ready to assume the role of a coordinator of such steps," Lukashenka declared. "Deeply mourning millions of victims, we have become still more aware of the grandeur of the feat of the Red Army fighters, Soviet guerrillas and underground activists, our fraternal nations who crushed fascism."

Lukashenka paid tribute to the more than 10,000 antifascists of 30 nationalities from nine European states who had greatly contributed to Minsk liberation.

Belarus: Lukashenka Stresses Treaty With Russia to Belarus' Benefit

LD0207161796 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings between Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and the elite of Belarusian society are becoming a tradition. For example, he has recently awarded state decorations to a group of employees in the fields of industry, health, science, and culture. Speaking to our country's best people, Lukashenka noted that a program of emergency measures comprising a complex of measures aimed at political and economic rapprochement between Russia and Belarus has been recently adopted in Belarus. We intend to do everything so that the agreements concluded with Russia will be implemented. We are not giving our state as a gift to anyone, the president stated. In all my actions I am always guided first of all by the interests of our people and do everything to improve the life of our nation. Everything in the treaty on the community is very beneficial to us. In our relations with the West we will abide by the same principle.

Belarus: Political Leaders Assess Lukashenka Recent Statements

WS0207145796 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 25 Jun 96 p 2

[Report on comments by former Supreme Soviet Chairman Myachaslaw Hryb; Supreme Soviet opposition leader Stanislaw Bahdankevich; Myachaslaw Hiruts, leader of the Supreme Soviet agrarian faction; and Alyaksandr Dabravolskiy, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Subcommission for Human Rights; place and date not given: "The President Has Made a Statement. Politicians Have Reacted to It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Alyaksandr Lukashenka's statements voiced on 20 June [during the Republican meeting addressing sociocultural issues] when he met with representatives of local executive power, triggered comment by various political circles.*

Former Supreme Soviet Chairman **Myachaslaw Hryb,** member of the Supreme Soviet Commission for International Issues, stressed that issues to be put to referendum must not contradict the law. He said that the issue of NATO expansion is "neither here nor there," because Belarus does not claim to want to join this organization and NATO is not obliged to consider the results of the Belarusian referendum. In M. Hryb's opinion, president's new initiatives can eventually lead Belarus into international isolation.

Supreme Soviet opposition leader **Stanislaw Bahdankevich** said that although the United Civic Party opposes the stationing of nuclear forces in the neighboring countries, he regards the referendum on NATO expansion as absolute nonsense.

Myachaslaw Hiruts, leader of the Supreme Soviet agrarian faction, said that he is surprised by the president's intention to hold a referendum on private land ownership. "Today, at the president's initiative, the legislature began to discuss a law on private land ownership in the first reading, and this is significant," said Myachaslaw Hiruts.

Commenting on an opportunity to introduce tougher rules for Belarusian citizens' trips abroad, **Alyaksandr Dabravolskiy,** chairman of the Supreme Soviet Subcommission for Human Rights, said: "This move could become the last straw for our patience and trigger the president's impeachment." A. Dabravolskiy stressed that the president's statement contradicts the Belarusian laws and the Constitution, which guarantee the right to move freely to our citizens, as well as the international acts ratified by Belarus, including the Convention on Human Rights.

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Belarus: Council of Europe 'Concerned' Over Public Order Issues

LD0207135296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 2 Jul 96

[By Larisa Klyuchnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 2 (Itar-Tass) - The Council of Europe is concerned over the processes taking place in Belarus of late. The Council is, specifically, well informed about facts when rallies were dispersed in the Belarusian capital, which was accompanied by serious incidents. The Council of Europe believes human rights violations take place in Belarus.

However, the situation regarding Belarus's entry into the Council of Europe is not hopeless. Members of the Belarusian delegation that attended the third session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe said this at a news conference in Minsk. The Interparliamentary Assembly session took place in Strasburg on June 23 — June 26. Members of the Belarusian delegation believe that Belarus may become a member of the Council of Europe in mid-1997.

Despite the difference of political views, the members of the delegation share the view that Belarus should join the Council of Europe as soon as possible. They believe this will prepare the ground for sprouts of real democracy in Belarus. It was also noted that Europe does not want Belarus to land in isolation "on the periphery of democratic European context."

The Belarusian delegation somewhat altered it tactic, emphasising political lobbying of Byelorussia's interests for the entry of the Council of Europe, said Petor Kravchenko, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for International Affairs. Members of the delegation worked actively in commissions and political groups of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, with delegations of Russia, Ukraine and Baltic countries. A number of influential politicians were invited to Byelorussia. A visit of head of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is expected in September.

Belarus: Deputy SupSov Head on Conflict With Lukashenka

WS0307074496 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 25 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with Vasil Mikalayevich Novikaw, Belarusian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, by Yuras Lyashkevich; place and date not given: "The People Must Know the Truth and Only the Truth, but Why Not the Full Truth?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] *An attentive reader must be surprised to again see in our newspaper an interview with Vasil Novikaw, Belarusian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, because we published a very detailed interview with him quite recently. But the current interview was initiated by Mr. Novikaw himself. He insisted on this interview in order to comment on the situation at the 20 June Republican meeting in which President Lukashenka participated. The editorial office could not but give the Belarusian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman an opportunity to express his opinion.*

[Lyashkevich] Vasil Mikalayevich, in your 14 June interview to ZVYAZDA, which was held at our newspaper's initiative, you had an opportunity to assess the work of the 13th Supreme Soviet in detail. This interview, however, has been initiated by you.

[Novikaw] In my opinion, the subject has acquired additional importance, because in his speech addressing the development of the sociocultural sector, delivered to almost 1,000 representatives of the executive power structures who took part in the 20 June Republican meeting, the Belarusian president made several strong emotional attacks on the Supreme Soviet.

In particular, the president's words described our deputies as those who have "lost their sinecures;" "who spent their time God knows where;" who, "poor things," are "overworked;" who are "hot-to-trot" to deliver their speeches from the throne and ... to express their concern over the situation in the state," and so on and so forth. He said that deputies "adopted only one law in May — the law on our state budget." He disapproved of the fact that the Supreme Soviet leadership "did not come to this meeting, although they had been invited."

Meanwhile, I, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, was present in the assembly hall of the Republican Cultural Education Center. I was precisely in the assembly hall, among the participants in the forum, the organizers of which did not even think it necessary to ask me, a representative of the Belarusian executive power, to take a seat in the presidium. Even when they "discovered" me, they did not inform the participants in the forum about this "misunderstanding" and did not officially beg my pardon for the incident. During the meeting, I provided detailed answers to the claims voiced by the president.

But Belarusian society did not learn anything regarding either the president's public negative assessment of lawmakers' performance or arguments voiced by

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the other party. SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, RESPUBLIKA, and ZVYAZDA published the president's speech, from which all accusations leveled against lawmakers were removed. But the Republican radio manipulated my recording and broadcast only the beginning and the end of my speech, which made it look like a number of loyal statements. Thus, the essence of my speech was absolutely distorted.

[Lyashkevich] Is it not an event which you in your previous interview described as a tempest in a teapot, something that does not affect the inner life of the people? Does the place you occupied in the hall mean something important to you?

[Novikaw] At the meeting, I, Belarusian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, represented the entire corps of deputies, in fact, hundreds of thousands of voters. I am sure that Presidential Administration officials deliberately and cynically humiliated precisely them, Belarusian citizens, when they violated basic rules of state etiquette.

It is high time to finally put a question point-blank and to the point: Do the Belarusian people have the right to know the truth about the relations between the president and the Supreme Soviet? But not the truth about which a Belarusian writer said as follows: "The people must know the truth and only the truth, but not the full truth." It is high time to openly discuss the genuine state of things. This is why I urged ZVYAZDA to learn what was behind the frame of "decent" reports from the Republican meeting.

[Lyashkevich] What kind of "sedition" was in your report, when you responded to Alyaksandr Lukashenka?

[Novikaw] First of all, I told the audience politely that 17 Supreme Soviet deputies and three officers of its Secretariat participated in the meeting. All of them, including those working in the executive "hierarchy," registered as participants on time and took part in the meeting. I expressed my deep gratitude to both the Presidential Administration and the Cabinet of Ministers for the opportunity to participate in such a representative meeting of executive power structures, expressing my conviction that discussions on the development of the social sphere will make it possible to more profoundly view the essence of discussed issues and to more professionally resolve them at the executive level.

In particular, I stressed that as regards the remaining Supreme Soviet deputies who had been invited to this forum, only Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski was not present, because, at the time, he was in Poland conducting negotiations with Polish Sejm Speaker Jozef Zych. [passage omitted]

[Lyashkevich] What do you say about the reproach that the Supreme Soviet has done nothing — except for adopting the 1996 budget — for six months?

[Novikaw] As usual, I will comment on this statement using figures and facts, some of which, by the way, I presented to the readers of your newspaper.

During 54 days of its plenary work, the 13th Supreme Soviet adopted 32 laws and 160 resolutions. Compare: At its first and second sessions, held over the same amount of time, the 12th Supreme Soviet adopted 21 laws and 222 resolutions, out of which 69 addressed staff issues which did not require much time. In addition, during the first 45 days of their first session, our predecessors did not have to discuss such complicated problems as the state budget and tax issues. We handled the budget issue precisely over two months and adopted it on 26 March 1996. I deeply regret that the president has such a distorted impression about the performance of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

But, at the same time, I must stress that the only 1996 budget article which was not adopted is the bill on expenditures for the Office of the Belarusian President's Affairs. All Supreme Soviet attempts to familiarize the deputies with the operating budget of this structure were in vain.

[Lyashkevich] But did Lukashenka's report contain something with what you cannot but agree, something about which he is in fact right?

[Novikaw] Undoubtedly, Alyaksandr Lukashenka's statement to the effect that from 1 July no deputy will go abroad mirrors the true situation regarding the contacts and business visits by Belarusian lawmakers abroad. The 1996 budget envisages that Supreme Soviet hard currency expenditures, including those on foreign trips, will stand at $1 million. Over the first six months, the Cabinet of Ministers earmarked $42,000 to us, and the Supreme Soviet spent this amount. Now our bank account is empty, because the Cabinet of Ministers is not transfering any money to us. [passage omitted]

[Lyashkevich] What was Lukashenka's attitude toward your speech in which you expressed your reaction to the accusation leveled against the deputies?

[Novikaw] In his concluding words, Alyaksandr Lukashenka said that I, as an individual, who at the time worked for the Communist Party Central Committee, must know well the practice of "... when the head of state, who was the first party secretary, criticized someone, sometimes perhaps too roughly; but despite all this, all saluted him and implemented [his orders]." I, however, must emphasize that both then and now I regard this tradition as deeply harmful to our cause.

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This practice cannot be used in today's Belarus when, according to the Constitution, the power is divided in two branches, legislative and executive, which are equal.

The president said that I, as a representative of the legislative power, should have based my report on the analysis of essential issues which were touched on in his report. I also regret that at this representative meeting, addressing the most critical problems of the development of sociocultural sphere, I was forced to provide an answer to spontaneous and, in my opinion, unfounded accusations leveled at deputies. Although all participants in the forum, including the journalists, realized that this strategy had been chosen not by Supreme Soviet represenatives, none of them dared to acknowledge this irrefutable fact from a rostrum, on radio or television, or in newspapers. I appreciated only some "private" support — in the corridors and over the telephone — from those who approved of my answer to the president, but I have no right to refer to them openly. Some "hierarchy" officials told me confidentially that this was the first time that they heard about our work in the Supreme Soviet. ... I am an honorable man and I do not salute the president, but I am ready to sign on to the president's words addressed to me: "Hence, let us agree that we will not praise or criticize ourselves here. We have enough issues, and each structure of our state must handle these issues." I am ready to be guided by this golden rule on two conditions: The two branches must steadily observe these rules, and the executive and legislative powers must deal profoundly with these problems, each of them within the framework of their competence.

Despite all this, despite all artificial and temporary issues, I once again hold out hope that both parties will reach a permanent mutual agreement. According to my strong conviction, which I repeatedly voiced, both the president and the Supreme Soviet are simply deemed to work together, shoulder to shoulder, for the sake of the interests of the Belarusian people.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Rebels Claim More Than 70 Tajik Servicemen Killed

LD0307102296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 3 Jul 96

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, July 3 (Itar-Tass) — More than 70 servicemen of the Tajik government troops were killed in the regions Childar and Sagirdasht from June 28 to July 1, the Tajik opposition press-service reported from Tehran on Wednesday.

In the past few days, the government forces launched a series of attacks, using armoured enginery [as received] and artillery, including Grad launchers. The rebel troops captured tens of prisoners and seized a great amount of arms and ammunition, the press-service reported.

As a result of the continuing blockade on the Tavil-Dara region, there is a worsening shortage of food products and medicines. Civilians and captives are suffering most severely. The number of prisoners has amounted to about 500 people, a rebel press-release said.

Dushanbe, despite its obligations, does not allow U.N. military observers and Red Cross representatives into Tavil-Dara and prevents from rendering humanitarian aid to civilians, the press-service noted.

Tajikistan: Red Cross Says Masses Flee Conflict Zone

LD0207173296 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the International Red Cross mission in Tajikistan, Mr. (Thomas Markelbach), gave a news conference for local Tajik and foreign correspondents today. Here is a report by our correspondent, Nizomshoh-i Nizom:

[Nizom] The political situation has been very tense in Tavildara and Komsomolabad districts in recent days. Therefore, inhabitants of these areas have fled to comparatively more calm districts, and most of them have come to Dushanbe.

This issue was discussed at the briefing held today with the participation of Mr. (Thomas Markelbach), head of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission in Tajikistan. He recalled that the inhabitants of these areas are suffering from a very unpleasant situation. As for foodstuffs, they are experiencing a lack of them. For certain reasons, we cannot provide assistance to these districts, he said. Out of 14,000 who used to live in Tavildara District, most are refugees. Among those refugees, 5,000 are in Kalai-Khumb [southeast of Tavildara, on Tajik-Afghan border], and more than 1,000 families are now refugees in Dushanbe.

Certainly, the reason why they are refugees is clear: Because of the lack of security, people had to flee and leave their homes. Owing to the present conflicts, they will not be able to gather their crops or to complete their work in the fields. Sending foodstuffs and medicine to the aforementioned areas is insufficient. Despite all this, the International Committee of the Red Cross is rendering assistance with foodstuffs, medicine, and clothes, though they are negligible. The committee will help Kalai-Khumb District in mid-July. Three hundred and fifty refugees are presently living in Garm District [central Tajikistan, north of Tavildara] too. However, we cannot provide assistance to them, he said, continuing the conversation, because nobody can ensure our security. We have learned from military sources that the roads have been mined, Mr. [Thomas Markelbach] said. Therefore, we cannot go to those places.

At present, Dushanbe is becoming a refugee center. Our committee is providing comprehensive assistance to these refugees. Naturally, in the first place, our committee must provide comprehensive assistance to families suffering from the war, to injured officers, to families who have been hit by natural disasters, and to servicemen. That is why $10 million have been allocated for 1996 by a Swiss bank. The republic's government has also given us helicopters, so that we will be able to airlift foodstuffs and medicine to dangerous areas.

Tajikistan: 'Tense' Situation in Khorog Settled Through Talks

LD0207163096 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, the political situation in Badakhshan [Gorno autonomous region, eastern Tajikistan] between Badakhshan armed groups and Russian Federation border guards suddenly became tense as a result of illegal actions by armed groups in that region, and the danger of a new conflict arose. In order to stabilize the situation and investigate the reasons for this disorder, a special commission under the leadership of Qozidavlat Qoimdodov, a deputy chairman of the Supreme Assembly, was set up by the President of the republic Emomali Rakhmanov, and sent to Badakhshan.

Several meetings between Qoimdodov and Lieutenant General Pavel Tarasenko, the commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops in Tajikistan, and an armed group provided an opportunity to achieve accord so as to ensure peace and calm in the region. There were two ways out of this dangerous abyss, Qoimdodov

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said during a conversation. One was the use of force, which could lead Badakhshan to war, and the other way was dialogue. Fortunately, Qoimdodov and the commission members managed to settle the problem through productive work and to normalize the situation by means of talks.

In order to safeguard the calm that was achieved, Qoimdodov had urgent meetings with the UN observers in the region, Khorog activists, managers of establishments and enterprises of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, and workforces. The political situation in Khorog is calm at present. The commission is continuing its work in the region.

Tajikistan: Russian Commander Predicts More Border Clashes

LD0207125196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 2 Jul 96

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, July 2 (Itar-Tass) - The command of the group of Russian frontier guards forces in Tajikistan does not rule out the aggravation of the situation in the Pamirs stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border as militants of Islamic opposition continue to be concentrated on the Afghan side. Some 450 militants have concentrated near the Afghan Lake Sheva and up to 500 militants concentrated near the Tanksheva gorge, Lieutenant-General Pavel Tarasenko, commander of the group of Russian frontier forces in Tajikistan told reporters.

They are stationed so far 30-35 kilometres away from the border. This concentration is not accidental. It is linked to the intention of militants to try to break through the border and get into the Tavildara district to come to the assistance of local militants, Tarasenko said. Clashes between the opposition groups and units of Tajikistan government continue in the Tavildara district.

Frontier guards do not interfere into the domestic conflict in Tajikistan, but any attempts to violate the border will be frustrated, the general said. Russian frontier guards deployed in the Pamirs have the necessary forces and armaments to achieve this, he said.

Tarasenko also denied rumours spread by the opposition that relations between Russian Frontier Guards and Tajik residents near the Pamirs have aggravated of late.

Tajikistan: Rebel Commander Reported Freed in Eastern Region

LD0207124596 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Resolute action by the people of [Gornyy] Badakhshan [Autonomous Region], who are oppressed by the regime's protectors, effected the release of Khudoydod Abulhasan, a group commander of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan in the area.

A report sent by our correspondent from Badakhshan for this program says that the other companions of commander Abulhasan have also been released. All of them were taken hostage by Russian border guards on 28 June.

This event caused a deterioration of the situation in Khorog, the center of the region. By surrounding the border guards' garrison and the administration of the area, the people, who have suffered much from arbitrary actions by Russian military servicemen, staged a resolute action aimed at reducing lawlessness. Witnesses say that the resistance of the Badakhshan people to the expansion of foreign forces has borne fruit. Moreover, according to them, for the first time in the years of struggle against the country's communist regime and its foreign protectors, the people of Badakhshan seemed to be united and as one in seeking to achieve their goal.

At the same time, another report from the area indicates that the fact that some representatives of the Badakhshan administration are sympathetic toward the people's forces provoked anger and indignation in the Russian military in Tajikistan. General Pavel Tarasenko, commander of the Russian Border Troops in the republic, was angry that some representatives of the Badakhshan administration, including the first deputy chairman of the region, the prosecutor-general, and a deputy chairman of the region's security department, criticized cases of law-breaking by border guards in a joint statement with the opposition forces.

Gen Tarasenko threatened to dismiss the above people from their posts, and they are sure that the Russian general's desire will be carried out without exception in such a rulerless country as Tajikistan. As these [Russian] generals keep the rulers of Tajikistan in power with the help of their soldiers' bayonets, their orders can be implemented without difficulty, even though they contradict international law.

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Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: President Meets Visiting Chinese President

LD0207180696 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An official visit to Uzbekistan by Jiang Zemin, the president of the People's Republic of China, started today. [passage omitted]

Jiang Zemin, on arriving in Uzbekistan, made a special statement. In particular, he said: It gives me particular pleasure to arrive in this beautiful country, the Republic of Uzbekistan, on an official visit at the invitation of his excellency, Islam Karimov. Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like, on behalf of the Chinese people, to convey warm greetings to the people of Tashkent and all the people of Uzbekistan and to express my deep respect. [passage omitted]

The Uzbek-Chinese summit has started. The range of issues to be discussed will open up new prospects and enable trade and economic relations to be broadened and deepened. Uzbekistan and China have long been bound by threads of economic cooperation. Their historical roots date back to ancient times.

The heads of state, before the beginning of the one-to-one talks, exchanged gifts and souvenirs as a token of mutual respect. The reform policy being conducted in both countries is bearing positive fruit: both powerful China and our speedily developing young country have many mutual points of contact. Speaking about them, President Islam Karimov especially noted the positive development of our cooperation. He spoke about the great, untapped potential of mutually advantageous cooperation and about what great importance Uzbekistan attaches to the development of friendly and trade and economic relations between the two countries. President Jiang Zemin said China is seeking to develop friendship and cooperation with Uzbekistan, not only considering them to be in the vital interests of China and Uzbekistan and the people of both countries but also believing they will promote peace and stability in the Asian region and in the rest of the world. He expressed his hope that the present visit will serve as a further impetus for consolidating mutual understanding and friendship among our people, intensifying cooperation, and raising friendly relations to a new level.

Uzbekistan: British Firm To Prospect for Gold

MM0207141896 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 96

[Report by Yevgeniy Romanov: "British Seek Republic's Gold" — from the "Business Tuesday" section p 3]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent — Britain's RTZ has set about determining western Uzbekistan's prospects for gold production. A multimillion [currency not specified] contract (the precise figure has not been released) has been signed with the Uzbekistani State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources. The work will be carried out on the firm's computers and using its methods. It is planned to process a vast amount of geological material — the mineral resources in the area surveyed are up to 400 meters deep. If any promising gold deposits are identified the firm will extend the contract and invest in developing the field. It has similar experience in 35 countries around the world.

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Armenia

Armenia: Zyuganov Said To Prefer Manucharyan to Badalyan Presidency

MM0207141696 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 96

[Report by Arkadiy Petrosov: "Reflection of the Kremlin in Sevan?" — from the "Business Tuesday" section p 3]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan — There are just three months to go to the Armenian presidential election, but the current president's future rivals are waiting for the Russian election to be over.

Armenia's Communists do not have the electorate or social support of their Russian party comrades. That is why Armenian Communists are waiting for a Zyuganov victory in the presidential election like manna from heaven. In their opinion, Ter-Petrosyan, who has unambiguously backed Boris Yeltsin and stated publicly "we are not headed the same way as a communist Russia," has thereby condemned himself. But Zyuganov, whose portraits adorn each issue of the weekly ARMYANSKIY KOMMUNIST [Armenian Communist], will be giving financial and other assistance to the fraternal Communist Party in its struggle against the "placemen of world capital" (naturally, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation leader made no mention of this in his economic election platform). Admittedly, according to certain information Gennadiy Zyuganov does not have a good relationship with Sergey Badalyan, first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee.

Another Armenian opposition leader — Ashot Manucharyan, formerly one of Ter-Petrosyan's closest allies, who worked for him as national security adviser — is close to Zyuganov and has met with him many times. Manucharyan is known in Armenia for his revolutionary ardor and his promises to trample the thieving power elite underfoot, and, according to Armenian press reports, he took part in the drafting of Zyuganov's election platform. It is said that Zyuganov would like to see Manucharyan as the left-wing candidate instead of the rather unimpressive political figure of Badalyan. The stumbling block, however, is that the local Communists cannot stand Manucharyan — they have not forgotten his impassioned speeches at rallies in 1988 that painted the Communists into a corner....

As a result, the nonparty Manucharyan has been nominated for Armenian president by the Armenian Scientific, Industrial, and Civic Union.

Armenia: President Indicates Government Priorities

LD0207174896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 2 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan speaking in Yerevan said his government's main priority is to build a law-governed democratic state and shift to a free market economy in Armenia, a presidential spokesman quoted him as saying at a meeting with Antonio Trakatelli who led a visiting delegation of European parliamentarians.

He said the Armenian leader indicated Yerevan wanted to pursued an open door policy and establish friendly relations with its neighbors.

For his part, Trakatelli spoke of being satisfied with the visit to Transcaucasia saying his delegation had witnessed a drive for democracy and market relations in all three regional states.

On Nagorno-Karabakh, he expressed hopes for an early solution to the conflict followed by concrete programs of aid to the disputed territory.

Speaking afterwards, Trakatelli said the delegation was formally invited by Petrosyan to oversee the country's presidential election scheduled for September 22.

He spoke of holding meetings with three other presidential candidates, but gave no details.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Moscow, Baku Commission To Ease Border Regime

LD0307103896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0954 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 3 (Interfax) — The regime on the Dagestani part of the Russian-Azerbaijani border is likely to be softened, says a protocol summing up the results of the session of the Russian-Azerbaijani Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation which ended on July 2.

The session was held in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan (a republic in the south of Russia.) The Russian side was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov and the Azerbaijani side by Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov.

According to sources in the Azerbaijani government, the Russian side assured Azerbaijan that it will take measures to soften the control and transportation regime on the border with Azerbaijan, and restore a normal movement of transport across the border.

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On December 19, 1994, the Russian government limited the transportation communication across the Russian-Azerbaijani border in an attempt to close the channels of arms supplies to Chechnya.

Azerbaijan: Armenia Said Boosting Karabakh Military With Russian Help

NC0307102396 Baku TURAN in English 1900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/02.07.96/TURAN— More than two years passed since the agreement on cease-fire on the Armenian-Azeri front has been obtained. Nevertheless, Armenia continues to increase potential of armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

For more than two years the government of self-proclaimed "Nagorno-Karabakh republic" has been taking steps for strengthening of arm and increase of military equipment of their army.

At the same time Armenia strengthens "its eastern frontiers with neighbours" i.e. Azerbaijan. Thus, Armenian is equipping borders in the Martuni-Fizuli part of front. From Agdam to the Iranian border they construct border line. For today 20-25 kilometres of the border line have been built: border columns, defensive fields and fire points. The works are carried out by local citizens under supervision of specialists from Armenia — officers of border service and engineers-constructors.

Yerevan attaches great attention to keeping of military-strategic routes between Baku and Karabakh under normal conditions. Thus, refurbishment works are going on in the routes: Stepanakert-Mardakert, Stepanakert-Askeran, Martuni-Gadrut, Vardenis-Kelbajar-Mardakert, Goris-Lachin-Shusha-Stepanakert and railway branch Megri-Kumlak. It is expected that 15 kilometres of railway Askeran-Stepanakert will be put into operation in the near future.

Defence Ministry of Armenia adopted a decision that draftees from Armenia after 3-6 months of exercises are being transferred to Karabakh for continuation of their military service. According to the plan, structure of subdivisions, arrived from Armenia, is changed every month, thus main contingent of soldiers is kept in fighting trim. In Karabakh itself local young people have been called to "defence army" since March.

The call to military service is carried out by military commissariats of local administrations on the basis of directive of the "Defence Committee of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" on "call to real military service of people at the age from 18 to 27 years old, as well as military specialists — doctors, tankmen, artillerists and field-engineers." Regular army has been formed on the ex- territorial basis and its backbone comprise local citizens warring from the very outset of the conflict, i.e. who has great experience of fighting.

Armenia enters the united system of anti-air defence system and pays more attention to anti-air defence system of Nagorno-Karabakh.

During the last visit of Grachev to Yerevan an agreement was obtained on conduction in summer this year joint Russian-Armenian exercises. It became known from the Group of Russian Troops in Transcaucasus, Russian troops located in Armenia and the units of the Armenian army will be involved in the exercise. The same sources report that the question on inviting the military leaders of so-called Nagorno-Karabakh republic to the joint exercises is also discussed. And the Defence Ministry of Armenia proposes participation in the forthcoming maneuvers of separate subdivision "defence armies of Nagorno-Karabakh", particularly the batteries of anti-air defence system.

Military experts consider that strengthening of armed forces of Armenia and separatists of Karabakh can bring to violation of military balance and violation of fragile peace in the region which has been kept since May 1994.

Azerbaijan: Further Talks with Armenia on Karabakh Issue

LD0107173296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 1 (Interfax) - Armenia and Azerbaijan opened another round of talks mediated by the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh in Stockholm Monday.

Azerbaijan is represented by a delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Tofig Zulfugarov, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry told Interfax. The talks will last until July 4.

Direct talks between Armenian and Azerbaijani presidential envoys were to begin in Germany Monday, reliable sources in Baku told Interfax. Azerbaijani state foreign policy adviser Vafa Guluzade is taking part in the talks from the Baku side.

He arrived in Germany Monday as a member of an Azerbaijani delegation led by President Heydar Aliyev. The delegation will stay in Germany until July 3.

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict will be one of the main issues on the agenda of his talks with the German leadership, Aliyev said in Baku airport earlier on Monday before leaving for Germany.

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He expressed satisfaction with Bonn's position on the issue. "Germany has decidedly and unambiguously supported Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and spoken for a just settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict," said Aliyev.

Azerbaijan: Delegation's Role in Karabakh Talks Noted

NC0207121096 Baku TURAN in English 1100 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/02.07.96/TURAN—Next round of the Armenian-Azeri negotiations for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict with mediation of the OSCE Minsk group began in Stockholm.

The delegation of Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister Tofik Zulfugarov takes part in the negotiations. The negotiations will last till July 4.

It is known that military experts also take part in the negotiations. They will discuss key problems and the ways of fulfillment of military and technical attachments to the political agreement.

Azerbaijan: German Envoy on Aliyev's Visit to Germany

NC0107183496 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left for an official visit to Germany today. The visit of the republic's president is to promote the broadening of relations between the two countries.

German Ambassador to Azerbaijan Michel Schmunk said that Heydar Aliyev will meet German President Roman Herzog, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. A number of important documents are expected to be signed during the visit. Michel Schmunk added that the economic ties between the two countries will further expand in the wake of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Germany.

Our esteemed President Geydar Aliyev was seen off at Bina airport by Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, head of the presidential executive staff Ramiz Mehdiyev, and other officials.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Speech at Council of Ministers Meeting Reported

NC0207145896 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Geydar Aliyev chaired the meeting the Council of Ministers' Presidium held at the presidential palace. The representatives of the ministries that have an important role in the improvement of the economy and the executive officials of the presidential administration also attended the convocation. The meeting deliberated on the economic work carried out from January to June 1996. President Aliyev addressed the convocation. He said:

The first half of 1996 has ended. Undoubtedly, a certain amount of work has been fulfilled in the economic field and a certain amount of success has been achieved. However, I am convinced that the Council of Ministers, its Presidium, and the officials have not satisfactorily organized the work that is required for the adoption of concrete measures, which are needed for the successful management of the economy. I must stress that all the recommendations that were made on 8 January and the requirements of the decisions that were adopted then have not been fulfilled thus far. Undoubtedly, this state of affairs has made us uneasy. I believe that you, too, are uneasy. That state of affairs has had negative effects on the effort we made to productively use the resources in our economic and social fields. In fact, it has obstructed our effort. We must assess the outcome of the work that has been carried out from January to June. What have we done and what have we gained during the past six months. What are the changes that have taken place in our economic field and what have we achieved in the social field. What have we done to improve people's life. I believe that the Council of Ministers should have assessed all that every month. It should have adopted the necessary measures.

Regrettably, the Council of Ministers has not adopted such a system thus far. In view of that, I regret to say that some of the recommendations that were made and the decisions that were adopted during the enlarged meeting that was held on 8 January have not been realized. The meeting that will be held on 18 July should not be regarded as a test. So, I wanted to summon you prior to the meeting to urge you to establish the work that has to be done in your individual fields. I want to ask you to establish our situation, the work that has been carried out, and our shortcomings. What is more important, you must contemplate on what should be done. Undoubtedly, new and contemporary principles must be adopted for the organization and management of our economic field. We must discuss that on 18 July.

Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev; Ramiz Mekhtiyev, chief of the executive staff of the Presidential Administration; State Adviser Vahit Akhundov; First Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Rasizade [as heard]; and the deputy prime ministers and other officials attended the convocation.

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Dear listeners, the newspapers have published the text of President Aliyev's speech.

Georgia

Georgia: Party Leaders View Russian Presidential Elections

AU0307120496 Tbilisi KVIRIS PALITRA in Georgian 24-30 Jun 96 p 2

["Own"-signed report under rubric "From Week to Week" — no headline given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It is of no importance to Georgia who will win the Russian presidential elections," stated Parliament Deputy Speaker Giorgi Kobakhidze [leading member of National-Democratic Party]. "The main thing for both Yeltsin and Zyuganov is to strengthen Russia's influence in the Caucasus. The difference is that each candidate intends to achieve this aim by different means."

"A communist victory could lead to a destabilization of the situation in Russia itself," stated Socialist Party Leader Vakhtang Rcheulishvili. "Of course, Yeltsin is not a symbol of democracy, but a Yeltsin victory is essential to preserve stability."

"The results of the Russian presidential elections have no importance for Georgia. In any case, Russia will remain an empire and, until it collapses, it will create all manner of obstacles for our country on the path of establishing real independence," stated Tengiz Kikacheishvili, leader of the "Roundtable — Free Georgia" party.

"If Gennadiy Zyuganov assumes the reign of power in Russia, the current antinational government under the leadership of Shevardnadze will be able to find a common language with him," said Georgian Helsinki Union Chairwoman Ana Chavchavadze.

In the view of Social-Democratic Party Leader Guram Muchaidze, the Georgian leadership should pray for a Yeltsin victory. Otherwise, the Georgian leadership will lose the reigns of power. According to Muchaidze, it makes no difference to his party who will become Russian president as the preelection programs of both candidates are based on social-democratic ideas.

Nodar Natadze, one of the leaders of the United Republican Party stated that Yeltsin's election as president was not advantageous to Georgia as the West, which is afraid of the restoration of communism, will forgive Yeltsin everything. Therefore, Yeltsin will do as he likes in relations with Georgia.

Georgia: President, Turkish Legislator Discuss Cooperation

LD0207192096 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze today met a member of the Turkish parliament, [ethnic Georgian] Shahin Lortkipanidze. [passage omitted]

In President Shevardnadze's view, recent developments within Turkey's executive authorities will not trigger changes in relations between the two countries. This is guaranteed by recent statements made by the Turkish president and by the fact that Ms. Tensu Ciller remains a leading figure in the government.

Mr. Lortkipanidze regarded the fact that there were 20 ethnic Georgian deputies in the Turkish parliament and two ethnic Georgian ministers in the government as a substantial grounds for strengthening relations between the two countries.

According to Lortkipanidze, Turkish business circles are interested in investing large sums of money in Georgia's economy. They need relevant guarantees, favorable policy on taxation, and an orderly customs inspection system. Turkey has broad experience in land reform. We are prepared to help you financially and provide consultations, Shahin Lortkipanidze said.

Speaking of Turkish-Georgian cultural relations, Shahin Lortkipanidze said he regretted that problems arose with regard to the opening of a Turkish university in Georgia. He said there were many young people in Turkey interested in Georgia and the Georgian language. Eduard Shevardnadze said that the fever of excitement resulted mainly from the choice of the site for the university. The Georgian Government will consider the issue seriously, he said.

According to Mr. Shevardnadze, a Turkish airline company will start operation in Georgia in early August and a branch of the Turkish agricultural bank will also open shortly. Mr. Shevardnadze said that Turkish-Georgian relations were developing at a good pace and on a good scale. This is proved by the fact that Turkey is leading all other countries in Georgia's foreign trade balance. [passage omitted]

Georgia: Report on 'Genocide' in Abkhazia Handed to UN

LD0207131396 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0910 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 2 Jul (IBERIA) — According to Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menaghar-

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ishvili, the official findings of a state commission investigating the genocide in Abkhazia have been handed over to the UN Commission on Human Rights. As regards the setting up of an international tribunal, Irakli Menagharishvili said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is holding consultations to make it possible for the UN to send a team of experts to Georgia. The team will draw up recommendations concerning the setting up of a tribunal on military crimes in Abkhazia.

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Estonia

Estonia: Tallinn Seeks Baltic Cooperation, Integration Into Europe

WS0307081796 Tallinn BNS in English 1949 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jul 2, BNS — Estonia, which Monday [1 July] took over from Lithuania the presidency of the Baltic Council of Ministers, regards integration into Europe through cooperation of the Baltic states as its top priority.

"Estonia as the presiding country of the Baltic Council of Ministers follows the principle that cooperation among the Baltic states is not an aim in itself, but a means for achieving other aims," a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told BNS.

Estonia's goal during its year of presidency is to win for the Baltic states a security-political and economic status, which allows Europe to view the Baltic region as a potential member of the European Union and NATO, the spokesman said.

For this, Tallinn plans to make an effort to develop mutual relations on the basis of treaties and bring the three countries' legal systems into line with EU regulations.

In the field of economics, Baltic cooperation should be oriented towards integration into the European economic space and the creation of a free-trade zone in the Baltic region to be followed by a customs union.

Tallinn attaches importance to resolving border crossing problems, investing into the Via Baltica road link project and keeping the project in the sphere of interest of international development and aid programs.

In defense, Estonia gives priority to continued three-way cooperation in developing peacekeeping forces, as well as creating a Baltic destroyer squadron and a joint airspace monitoring system. "Estonia's position is that the Baltic states need to find more opportunities to make coordinated use of their scant resources," the Foreign Ministry press secretary said.

In his words, Estonia hopes during its presidency to make a bigger contribution to the fight against organized crime and cross-border crime.

Under the presidency of Estonia's predecessor, Lithuania, the Baltic states signed three-way accords on free trade in farm produce and on environmental cooperation, as well as two-way treaties on mutual protection and promotion of investments and on social security.

Estonia: Meri, German Minister Discuss Economic Cooperation

WS0207132196 Tallinn BNS in English 1314 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jul 2, BNS — President Lennart Meri and Carl Dieter Spranger, Germany's minister for economic cooperation and development, discussed at a meeting in Tallinn Tuesday [2 July] opportunities for economic cooperation and the Baltic states' unification with West European structures.

Spranger told the president that Germany would continue backing membership of the European Union for Estonia and spoke highly of this Baltic state's advances. In his words, Germany's high opinion of Estonia as a democratic and successful country of reforms had not suffered through Russia's active counterpropaganda.

The minister observed that Estonian-German economic cooperation had become more lively of late and that concrete projects had been launched in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The president said historical experience had to be taken into account in shaping present-day policies. In his words, Estonia could offer Germany its experience of relations with the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The meeting also discussed opportunities for cooperation in refresher training of Estonian specialists and modernization of the country's energy sphere, as well as the need for stepping up German investments in Estonia.

Estonia: French Delegation Signs Defense Cooperation Plan

LD0207131996 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonia and France signed a defense cooperation plan this morning. Maret Oja reports from the news conference that followed the ceremony:

[Begin recording] [Oja] Since Sunday, a French delegation led by General Alain Chopin has been visiting Estonia. The general is deputy chief of the International Relatio Department of the French General Staff. The visit is g place in connection with Estonian-French defense talks, and a cooperation plan was signed this morning. The Estonian delegation was led by Margus Kolga, a deputy chancellor of the Ministry of Defense, who signed the cooperation agreement on behalf of Estonia:

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[Kolga] Prior to the signing today, a round of bilateral talks was held between the Estonian and French Ministries of Defense. This round of talks, or a working meeting, was included in the 1995-1996 Estonian-French defense cooperation plan. Cooperation is regulated by the cooperation agreement signed by the Estonian and French ministries of defense in May 1994.

Traditionally, such meetings discuss both political issues and opportunities for defense cooperation. This time, in the political part, we discussed security issues in Europe as a whole, and the adapting of security issues to the new post-Cold War situation and to new security risks and threats. In this framework, we also discussed general integration processes in Europe and considered the issues of Russia in this context.

[Oja] The talks' participants also exchanged opinions about the reform of the French defense system and discussed the development of the Estonian Defense Forces.

The meeting of delegations in the Ministry of Defense yesterday thoroughly analyzed the fulfilling of the cooperation agreement of last year, once again reviewed the cooperation plan for the coming year, and made amendments to it:

[Kolga] The plan for 1996-1997, which we signed today, includes 13 events. The most positive side of the plan is that these 13 events cover a rather wide range. There are events for all types of troops and also for the ministry. The events also include a political factor and we have planned to hold a meeting between defense politicians of the French and Estonian Defense Ministries early next year.

[Oja] Gen. Alain Chopin, the leader of the French delegation, visited Estonia for talks for the second time.

[Chopin, in French fading into Estonian report] The general visited Estonia 18 months ago. The aim of his current visit is to learn about new achievements, and he regarded the developments seen in Estonia as very positive. As cooperation events between Estonia and France have become more and more concrete and many significant changes have taken place in Estonian society, the leader of the French delegation hoped that the cooperation will continue and speed up in the future, which would contribute to securing stability in Europe. [end recording]

From Estonia, the French delegation left for Riga and Vilnius.

Estonia: Government Grants Residence to Ex-Soviet Servicemen

LD0207142496 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Estonian Government today decided to grant temporary residence permits to 1,103 foreigners who served as professional servicemen in the army of foreign countries [reference to former Soviet Union] and to their family members.

Justice Minister Paul Varul, who is currently acting prime minister, said that altogether, the ex-servicemen of foreign countries had submitted 10,517 applications for residence permits. By now, the government has granted 6,217 temporary residence permits to ex-servicemen.

Interior Minister Mart Rask said that so far, the government has given no negative replies to residence permit applications. Rask said the commission has set aside applications with doubtful grounds and will decide on refusals next week.

Latvia

Latvia: Ulmanis To 'Force' Granting Admittance to NATO

LD0207172196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, July 2 (Interfax) — Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis said he intends "to do his best for his country to be admitted to NATO at the first stage of the alliance's expansion."

"If this does not happen I will force granting persuasive guarantees of Latvia's security and its admittance to NATO in the future," he told a press conference in Riga Tuesday [2 July].

During the meeting between heads of the Baltic states with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Defense Minister William Perry, and American congressmen June 22-27 he had an impression that "Latvia will be admitted to NATO in the near term," Ulmanis said.

He also reported that during his conversations with Clinton and Perry they discussed the memorandum on mutual understanding signed in Vienna on June 1. The memorandum declares the need to change the CFE [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe] Treaty, in particular, to increase the strength of Russian forces in the Leningrad and South Caucasian military districts.

According to Ulmanis, Clinton said that the countries which have signed the CFE Treaty will ensure a

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"We are not satisfied with such explanations," Ulmanis said. Estonian President Lennart Meri and he openly told this to Clinton, Ulmanis said.

He believes that "the increase of strength of the Russian forces near the borders of the Baltic states cannot be justified by anything."

Latvia: Ulmanis Comments on Results of Baltic Presidents' U.S. Trip

LD0207171296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The purpose of the Baltic presidents' trip to the United States has been achieved, as the leading figures in that country have testified their readiness to (?consider) the security of the Baltic region, a news conference was told today by Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, who assessed the recent visit by the Baltic presidents to the United States. The president asserted his readiness to do everything for Latvia to be admitted to NATO in the first round. Work must be done so that the guarantees are secure and the admission of Latvia is never dropped from the NATO agenda. However, at present, he said, it is important for Latvia to create such an internal political situation that we need not ask for security but are able to defend for ourselves, said Guntis Ulmanis.

Latvia: Sea Border Talks With Lithuania Recess With No Results

LD0207114096 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth round of Latvian-Lithuanian talks on determining the sea border ended yesterday without specific results. The leader of the Lithuanian delegation explained that the appreciation of each side's stance increased in the talks. The delegations also discussed the specific coordinates proposed by each side for the sea border.

We remind you that the difference of opinion between Latvia and Lithuania started in 1995, when the Latvian Government signed a licence agreement with the U.S. Amoco company and the Swedish OPAB company for petroleum extraction of the continental shelf in the Baltic Sea.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Parliament Ratifies Border Treaty With Poland

LD0207192396 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lithuanian parliament today ratified the Polish-Lithuanian treaty on common state border, with 67 Seimas members voting in favor and three abstaining. There were no votes against. Legal acts relating to the treaty and to the agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance were also ratified.

The treaty was signed in Vilnius on 5 March 1996, ELTA reported.

Lithuania: Free Economic Zone To Be Created in Northern Lithuania

LD0207125896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, June 2 (Interfax) — Lithuania's first free economic zone will be created in the city of Siauliaiin in the north of the republic, the Lithuanian parliament decided on Tuesday.

The first such zone is to be created in Siauliai because the former military airdrome Zokniai is situated near the city. It is the largest one in the Baltic countries and can accept most modern planes.

In 1995 Lithuania signed a contract with the company Nederlanse Philips Berdrijven B.V., under which the airdrome will be remodeled into an airport of the first category in line with ICAO standards. The modernized airport is to be commissioned in May 1997.

The airport will not be registered as an economic facility of the free economic zone, however, in line with the passed law will have all tax, customs, currency-financial conditions and benefits necessary to the zone enterprises. The airport can be used equally by the zone enterprises and other Lithuanian and foreign economic subjects.

According to the new law, the zone's subjects will be engaged in trade and production. Banking will not be developed because, according to Lithuanian law makers, Lithuanian banks are capable of servicing zone participants.

Free economic zones will also be created in the vicinity of the Klaipeda sea port and near Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, where a railway meeting European standards will be laid from Poland.

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Lithuania: Ruling Party Confesses Need for Election Coalition

LD0307103796 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party invites the Social-Democratic Party, the Peasants Party, and trade unions to form an election bloc. This was announced at a news conference in the Seimas today by Justinas Karosas, deputy head of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party faction. Karosas said that after the elections to the Seimas, the influence of the right-wing parties — that is, the Christian Democrats and the Conservatives — can become stronger, while the Social-Democratic policies, defending those who work to earn their living, can become neglected.

According to Justinas Karosas, the Lithuanian Social-Democratic Labor party, which advocates Social-Democratic values, after four years of rule, found itself in a complicated transitional period and lost its popularity. Therefore, he said, the election bloc is needed for the Social-Democratic policies to retain their influence after the elections.

Meanwhile, at the news conference yesterday, the deputy chairman of the Social-Democratic Party, Rimantas Dagys, said that the Social-Democrats would not join any coalition at the forthcoming general election.

Justinas Karosas admitted that the numerous discussions on mutual relations with the Social-Democratic Party did not bring about any results yet. [passage omitted]

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